Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD071303 [Editorial Report]

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner

The Kuwaiti delegation in Mashhad is "not taking the matter seriously" and attaches "no importance" to the lives of the Kuwaiti citizens on the plane, Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayyeri stated in remarks cited by IRNA 7 April. His criticism of the Kuwaitis followed threats by the hijackers that they would leave Mashhad Airport by 0830 GMT if they did not receive a favorable response to their demand for the release of 17 "political prisoners" in Kuwaiti jails, according to IRNA.

The hijackers warned that they are ready to blow up the plane and that the three members of the Kuwaiti royal family among the hostages will be the first to pay "dearly" if their demands are not met. The hijackers released 32 non-Kuwaiti passengers during the night, but announced that the 55 remaining hostages are in "serious danger," IRNA noted.

A Tehran radio commentary on the hijacking reaffirmed that Iran "has always condemned such acts," but stressed that the roots of some of these phenomena lie in "popular protests" against other "inhumane deeds."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq announced five more missile strikes at Iran in military statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio 7 April. Two "Al-Husayn" missiles were fired at Tehran; others hit Qom, Esfahan, and Tabriz. Tehran radio announced that Iran responded by firing 13 missiles at Baghdad, Umm Qasr, and Basra.

Iranian aircraft also bombed "economic and military" targets in Baghdad 7 April, IRNA reported. A first raid caught the Baghdad air defenses by surprise, the agency said, and the Iranians followed this up with a second attack that targeted a military garrison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

A military spokesman cited by the agency denied an Iraqi claim that an Iranian plane was downed during the raids. Iranian jets also bombed Irbil and Qal'at Dizah 7 April, according to IRNA and Tehran radio.

Iranian aircraft were also in action the previous day, raiding Iraqi military centers in northern and southern Iraq, IRNA reported. The targets included a missile site and a Mojahedin-e Khalq headquarters in the Kallar region of Diyala Province. However, an Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses stated that the Iranian raid on Kallar hit a playground, killing 5 children and injuring 35 other people.

Meanwhile, Iraqi aircraft attacked Dezful, Shushtar, Masjed-e Solayman, Ilam, Orumiyeh, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Shahpur, and Zaviyeh, according to a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Another communique cited by INA acknowledged the loss of one Iraqi plane over Iran and IRNA stated that an Iraqi Sukhoy-22 was downed over Masjed-e Soleyman. The agency said that 6 civilians were killed and 9 wounded in the attack on Masjed-e Soleyman, while 15 civilians were killed in Iraq's missile attacks on Tehran the same day.

Iran responded by firing two missiles at Baghdad and nine others at Basra and Khanaqin, IRNA reported. The Iraqi communique cited by INA acknowledged that a missile hit Baghdad, causing casualties.

Israel

West Bank Killings—One Israeli girl and two Arabs were killed when a group of teenagers from the Elon More settlement were attacked by Arab villagers near Nabulus, Jerusalem radio reported. Fourteen other members of the Israeli party were injured, one of them seriously, and two villagers were also wounded. The Israeli teenagers, accompanied by two armed guards, were hiking in hills near the village of Bayta when they were attacked by stonethrowing Arabs, the radio said. The Israelis then entered the village but were ambushed. The guards killed two of their attackers but were subsequently overwhelmed.

The teenagers were surrounded and beaten, though other Arab residents managed to protect some of the children. The Israeli girl was killed by a stone and one of the armed guards was seriously injured. The IDF subsequently found the guards' weapons inside the village, which was placed under curfew, IDF radio noted. Settlers' leaders reacted to the incident by demanding that the government implement tougher measures against anyone attacking Jews, Jerusalem radio reported. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel will "cut off the hands of the murderers" and will not let "despicable terrorism" achieve its goals, according to IDF radio.

In other incidents in the territories, an Arab was injured while attempting to snatch an IDF officer's weapon in the Nabulus casbah, Jerusalem radio reported. Two other Arabs were injured in clashes with the IDF in the Gaza Strip.

Shultz Mission—In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio following Secretary of State George Shultz' departure for Egypt, Foreign Minister Peres called for a "major effort" to keep the Shultz initiative alive, adding that all other alternatives are so bleak and worrying that this remains "the only hope in town." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jerusalem television that Israel must examine "every way" to achieve peace, stressing that Israelis should not be "dogmatic" or "inflexible."

After meeting with Shultz in Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said he was "very satisfied" with the talks, which were "encouraging," according to Cairo radio. Shultz subsequently held talks with King Husayn in Jordan, Amman radio noted.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Clashes—Fighting between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in the Al-Nabatiyah area died down during the afternoon of 6 April, though no formal cease-fire agreement was reached, Beirut radio reported. While the radio said Amal has taken full control of Al-Nabatiyah, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Hizballah occupies over half the city, despite gains by Amal.

Voice of Lebanon cited Amal estimates of its own losses as 7 killed and 40 injured. Hizballah sources described Amal's conditions for a permanent cease-fire as "impossible," the radio added. Amal has reinforced its positions in the Al-Nabatiyah area with men and tanks from Beirut, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

French Hostages—Amal leader Nabih Birri stated that the three French hostages in Lebanon could be freed before 20 April, AFP reported. Birri's remarks came during a meeting with Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association.

Afghanistan

A joint statement was adopted by President Najibullah and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev 7 April in Tashkent, where Najibullah and USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had flown the previous day at the conclusion of Shevardnadze's visit to Kabul, TASS reported. The statement reaffirmed that Soviet troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan beginning 15 May if the Geneva agreements are concluded in the "shortest period" of time. According to TASS, Najibullah left Tashkent for Kabul following the meeting with Gorbachev and Shevardnadze.

Kabul radio carried President Najibullah's message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar concerning the Geneva talks with Pakistan. Najibullah criticized Pakistan's "irresponsible position" of proposing new conditions "completely outside" the framework of articles included in UN Resolution 42 on Afghanistan, which, Najibullah stressed, Pakistan not only voted for, but initiated itself.

Najibullah called on Perez de Cuellar to personally exert a "positive influence" and a "serious dynamism" on the talks. For Pakistan's part, Pakistan radio cited President Ziaul Haq as saying that the Geneva agreement could be signed "any moment," because the USSR and the United States have "agreed" that they would "continue to help" their allies after the agreement. He reiterated that Pakistan would not abandon the Afghan people.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is to start an official visit to the USSR 8 April to discuss the latest Middle East developments, including the "uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza and proposals for an international conference on the Middle East, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. According to TASS, several members of the PLO Executive Committee were to arrive in Moscow 6 April.

'Arafat, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and members of Fatah Central Committee met with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche on 6 April, Tunis radio reported.

Libya

Relations with the United States should improve after the U.S. presidential elections, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted in an interview with London's AL-TADAMUN. "No new U.S. President will be as trivial and insane as Reagan," Al-Qadhdhafi declared, therefore, "any new president would seek to improve relations with us."

Kuwait

Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, in an interview with AL-HAWADITH magazine cited by KUNA, said that plans have been drawn up to defend Kuwait's coastal belt and protect the country's oil installations.

Iraq

Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, met with President Saddam Husayn, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, during a 5-6 April visit, INA and Bulgaria's BTA reported.

Egypt

Shultz Visits To Brief Mubarak on Peace Plan

Arrives In Cairo 6 Apr

NC061210 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several hours.

President Mubarak will receive Shultz, who will brief him on the outcome of his consultations with Jordan, Syria, and Israel on the proposed U.S. peace plan.

Shultz was received at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC061356 Cairo MENA in English 1340 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (MENA)—Official talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. secretary of State George Shultz opened here this afternoon, upon Shultz' arrival earlier in the day.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Premier Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, First Foreign Undersecretary Dr Usamah al-Baz, and Presidential Secretary for Data and Follow-Up Dr Mustafa al-Fadki.

The American delegation comprised Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, U.S. Ambassador here Frank Wisner, the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, the deputy assistant secretary of state and the plenipotentiary at the American Embassy.

Mubarak Comments on Talks

NC061550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has stated that he held a 150-minute meeting with U.S. Secretary of state George Shultz.

He said: This is Shultz' third tour in the region. I am largely satisfied with the various aspects of the talks we have held so far and with his presence in the region for the third time. I have asked him to come back again.

President Mubarak continued: I feel that all parties want the peace process to continue and produce results. Although the peace process is complicated and difficult, I have still asked Shultz to return once more. I believe all parties share my view, which is that the U.S. secretary of state must continue his mission until he achieves a good result and that an international peace conference should be convened as soon as possible.

The president explained that his talks with Shultz had been very encouraging. He said:

There are some points that need further discussion. the problem is not easy. However, I have hopes that we will arrive at a result some time in the future. I again welcome Shultz to Egypt. I am very satisfied with the talks we have held. I say this to encourage him. I believe he is going to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. This is an indication that there is progress in the peace process, although Shamir is still sticking to his view. However, I hope he will change his mind, for the sake of peace. Peace is very precious; it demands sacrifice and a very strong will. All of us must assist and cooperate with each other until peace is established in the whole region.

Shultz Departs Cairo 6 Apr

NC061535 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Cairo International airport this afternoon following a brief visit to Cairo. While here, he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the proposed U.S. peace plan for the Middle East region. He was seen off by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner.

PLO's Hani al-Hasan Visits, Meets Al-Baz

NC061441 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, conferred today with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by PNC member Sa'id Kamal.

Al-Hasan said that the meeting was held within the framework of consultations between Egypt and the PLO. It dealt with the situation in the Arab region, especially the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and the present talks which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is holding in the region.

Al-Hasan stressed that the PLO must attend the international peace conference and that an invitation must be sent for this purpose.

Al-Hasan also commented on the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner yesterday. He said that Kuwait has been a target of blackmail and pressure for a long time, but has always proved its ability to overcome difficulties and confront

dangers. He expessed the hope that this ordeal will end soon, because it involves innocent people who have nothing to do with the continuing conflicts in the region.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Current Issues

Duscusses Egypt, Chad

LD061746 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1449 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Apr (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi discounts any possibility of a personal meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak and expressed obvious disappointment that his opening toward his eastern neighbor met with total rejection, as he put it.

The possibilities of an Al-Qadhdhafi-Mubarak summit meeting and overall relations between Libya and Egypt were discussed last night by TANJUG Tripoli correspondent Dejan Lukic and Al-Qadhdhafi in a tent at the latter's Tripoli residence, Bab 'Aziziyan. On this occasion Al-Qadhdhafi expressed his conviction that President Mubarak is under strong U.S. pressure and that, as a result, "there is no possibility of making independent decisions." In such a situation, the Libyan leader said, I see no use in having a personal meeting.

"But, at other levels, we are prepared to sit at the table with our Egyptian brothers and to talk about everything," he stated.

Al-Qadhdhafi also gladly agreed to explain to TANJUG Libya's present view of relations with Chad, in other words, there is a threat of a new conflict. [sentence as received] Asked directly if he intends to attend the African summit meeting on Chad at the end of the month and to meet with Chadian President Habre, Al-Qadhdhafi replied by stating four strict conditions which, as he put it, if not met, would make his meeting with Habre impossible and the summit in Addis Ababa pointless. Here is a more extensive text of Al-Qadhdhafi's answers to TANJUG's questions:

In response to the first question on relations with Egypt, the Libyan leader said: "Generally speaking, I have agreed to open borders despite the fact that Egypt still has ties with the Zionist enemy. I have been under great pressure from the demands of the Egyptian opposition, the Egyptian people, Egyptian workers in Libya, and some Arab heads of state who have previously had contact with President Mubarak. I have done all this despite the Egyptian ties with Israel, which are detrimental to the fate of the Arab nation as a whole. Israel is a bridgehead of imperialism, and imperialism has made it possible for Israel to possess an atom bomb.

"Egypt accepts this situation and normalizes relations with the enemy who possesses atomic weapons...But despite all this I have opened borders on my side and continue to insist on open borders. Libyans enjoy full freedom to cross into Egypt, and Egyptians are welcome wherever they decide to cross the border.

"In addition, I have withdrawn a division that was at the border. The whole world knows that the Egyptian Army is concentrated on the Libyan border and that actually it has no other front.

"I have also proposed that we connect the Nile with a man-made river and make the desert between Libya and Egypt fertile.

"To my great sorrow, the Egyptian president refused all these constructive proposals, though at first some contradictory statements were made. On the one hand they welcomed the Libyan withdrawal of troops and opening of borders. But as soon as the following day, negative statements came from the United States, statements which were also endorsed by the Egyptian president announcing that he rejects my initiatives.

"I can say that this, the Egyptian position, was received with deep sorrow and disappointment in the Arab world and beyond. In essence he has disowned Arab leaders whom he had accepted as mediators, the Tunisian and Sudanese presidents, the Saudi king, and some others.

"I, however, stick to my positions, I claim that they are sincere and ultimately they will win.

"I envisage that there will be a confrontation between the Egyptian people and its government, the Egyptian Army and the government, and the Egyptian opposition parties and the president.

"As far as the possibility of my meeting with Mubarak is concerned, I believe that it would not be useful because he is not independent in making decisions. If he were, I would be preapred to meet with him, to hear his explanation of why he continues to have links with Zionists, why he is jeopardizing the security of the Arab nation, why he is forgetting his Arab obligations. But, as I have said, it is a matter of his being in a position to make decisions independently, so, as far as I am concerned, I believe a personal meeting would be of no use.

"As far as other levels are concerned, we are ready to sit at a table with the Egyptians and listen to them explain their position to us. I believe that today the whole world is on the Libyan side and shares its view."

[Question] Colonel, the summit meeting of the countries in the African Committee for Chad is due to be held in Addis Ababa at the end of the month. Do you intend to go to Addis Ababa, and will you have a meeting there with Chadian President Habre?

Al-Qadhdhafi: "We have no aggressive designs on Chad. We want to help the Chadian people because they are our fraternal people, our neighbors with whom we share

land, and our brothers in Islam. But the Chadian people at the moment are waging a struggle against the government in Ndjamena. I maintain that the government in Ndjamena does not represent the people of Chad. There is fighting in southern Chad; there is rebellion in the east and in the north. I am convinced that the GUNT will win in the end. The GUNT is a true representative of all Chad. If Libya were to recognize the government in Ndjamena it would be making a move against the interests of Chad itself.

"Habre is maintained by foreign forces, and we are thus challenging him to get rid of the foreign umbrella, of the French and U.S. forces, to show that he is capable of ruling the country without foreign support.

"It is interesting that the West, which today supports Habre, opposed the government in Kabul, insisting that it was under the patronage of a foreign military force, that it had not been elected by the people and that, therefore, it should be opposed. How can that same West support an identical situation in Chad?

"But, despite everything, we will not miss a single opportunity for peace, dialogue, and agreement. If the disputed area of Aozou is recognized as Libya's, if there is a cease-fire between Oueddei and Habre, if foreign forces leave Chad, and if the Libyans who cooperated with the GUNT and were arrested are freed, if all these conditions are met, we will recognize Ndjamena. We will sit at the negotiating table, we will cooperate.

"The ball is now in Ndjamena's court. It is up to Ndjamena to start moving, to achieve all that I have just mentioned, for the benefit of the people of Chad. For our part, we are planning no aggression. On the contrary, if all this is to be implemented we will make it our duty to recognize Ndjamena, not to use force, and not to interfere in Chad's internal affairs.

"We want an agreement on all this before the summit. Otherwise, the summit will be pointless as far as we are concerned."

On Arab Summit, Other Topics

PM061535 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 2 Apr 88 pp 7-10

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Fu'ad Matar on 18 March in Surt]

[Text] For days now the Libyan Jamahiriyah has been in an unusual state of psychological elation as a result of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's decision to release prisoners and abolish travel ban lists. Anyone visiting the Jamahiriyah can notice the good effects of this step. People see the step as a good omen and they talk about it with complete satisfaction. Other steps cannot be ruled out.

The Libyans express joy at this step by sending Col al-Qadhdhafi flowers with expressions of support and good wishes.

Although I have known Col al-Qadhdhafi for 16 years and have held several press interviews with him—which should make me more capable of following the steps he takes—I could not quite follow this latest one.

That is why, when I met with Col al-Qadhdhafi on the evening of 18 March 1988—in his tent, of course, but this time in Surt—I found myself employing journalistic skills to find out from him the motives behind that step. Was it a desire to introduce a new social order, was it a step in line with his call for the exercise of freedom—and prison is the opposite of freedom; was it a result of appeals by a father, a brother, or a wife of one prisoner or another, or was it out of mercy for one ageing father or another?

While still in the realm of speculation, I found myself wondering: Was that step a reflection of Col al-Qadhdhafi's distaste for measures previously taken for one reason or another? Or was it that this leader, now feeling more self-confident, wanted to confirm his self-confidence with a decision to release prisoners including some jailed for political reasons.

Col al-Qadhdhafi answered my questions and queries as follows:

Al-Qadhdhafi: The revolution was carried out to free people, not imprison them. Putting people in prison was, in our view as liberators, something contrary to the spirit of our revolution. Furthermore, the new authority which emerged, that is the authority of the people, made it imperative that every citizen should decide for himself what he wants. The authority of the masses is such that it leaves no reason for anyone to oppose it, because every compatriot is entitled to take his views to the people's congresses and, if these views are passed by the congresses, then they find their way to implementation.. Under the rule of the masses, no citizen has any cause to rebel so long as he is able to submit whatever religious, political, or economic ideas he likes. Under the rule of the masses there is no need for secret work so long as one is entitled to express one's views in broad daylight and publicly.

Some people were jailed before the authority of the people was established. Some high-ranking officers could not stomach the fact that we junior officers, with such ranks as lieutenant, were introducing change. They could not understand that ours was a popular revolution, not a military coup. So they tried to take armed action. Some of them had joined our organization a few weeks before the 1 September revolution. For their plotting they were jailed and sentenced to death, but we did not carry out the sentences (they included the first interior and defense ministers in the first cabinet after the revolution).

Then there were the pre-revolutionary partisan groups which began to operate secretly when they were supposed to welcome the revolutionary change. There were also individual attempts by politicians, opportunists, and members of the royal court.

Naturally, when the revolutionary experiment began there were cases of wronged individuals' being detained out of suspicion and the need for caution.

When foreign plots against us increased it was necessary to be strict, and that meant taking security precautions. The plots were a result of the partisan elements' rejection of the principle of the people's authority.

Now, with the establishment of the people's authority, it is natural that nobody should be in jail for political reasons. So we decided to empty the prisons, given that there are people's congresses to which a citizen can turn and say what he wants and, if the congresses approve, get it implemented.

Furthermore, prisons have been such an increasing burden on the Arab people that they have become unbearable.

Matar: At the previous people's congress a phrase was used which did not seem to catch the attention of many people. That phrase was "revolution is a declaration of freedom." Does a declaration of freedom mean the release of prisoners, and have you been contemplating this step for a whole year?

Al-Qadhdhafi: All I can say in this connection is that retaining the prisons runs contrary to the authority of the people and the assertion that revolution is a declaration of freedom reflects the new reality of which I have spoken.

Matar: How can we envisage a state without prisons? What would you do with people who steal, kill, or commit a crime for which the culprit should be sent to prison? And what about the 100 who are still in prison?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Those in prison are not 100 people but a few individuals. We have not released them because they have foreign links and because they are serving sentences passed on them.

As regards keeping the prisons and the question of how there can be a state without prisons, all I can say is that in a state of the masses common crime and political crime ought to disappear, although I expect that common crimes will be committed.

Why should there be no political crimes? Because this is a reign of the masses and because citizens can express their views and object and complain about whatever is bothering them without having to resort to secret activity that would constitute a political crime.

On the matter of common crime, I should say that under the revolution, before the second chapter of the Green Book was published, someone stabbed a jeweller. That kind of thing will never happen again because nobody is allowed any more to open a jewelry shop. The same thing could be said regarding a crime committed against the owner of a building just because he owned that building. Since there are no longer proprietors of buildings there should be no crimes of that nature, for that simple reason. Similarly, since land is owned by everyone there is no need for a crime involving a feudalist owning vast land and an ordinary person who owns no land, and so on.

Matar: In the 3 days I have spent here I have noticed that the decision to free prisoners has been very well received by the public, including even people who had no relatives in prison. I have also noticed that people send you bouquets of roses and telegrams of support expressing good sentiments and wishes for more steps such as the reconsideration of certain measures dictated by past circumstances.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Such as what?

Matar: I will not list all the measures here. I will just raise the matter of the markets where stores have been closed, causing some dismay among residents and visitors such as we, and the matter of public freedoms, since caution has created an atmosphere in which one always feels tense and since their pursuits have forced many people to live abroad instead of living in their own country.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Those abroad can return and say whatever they want to say at the people's congresses. If they can convince people, then they are welcome to do so.

Matar: Can we conclude from what you are saying that this is a pardon?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course. They can return and enter the Jamahiriyah without being questioned and without being called to account. Those who have links with foreign intelligence services, especially the U.S. intelligence service, are the ones who will not return.

Matar: During my visit I have also noticed that the supply difficulties have eased. Does this mean that the blockade against you has finally lifted?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The foreign blockade has failed. It was merely psychological warfare. Let me explain that what you have mentioned occurred at a time when we were saving hard currency. We were anxious to take measures that would enable us to save hard currency. In that period we did not allow the purchase of everything, but now the situation has stabilized.

Matar: In the same vein, we ask when busy activity will return to the markets and when will cafes, restaurants, theaters, modern cinemas, and innocent recreation centers return?

Al-Qadhdhafi: There is nothing to prevent all that from happening. It all depends on who will take the initiative and open a cafe, restaurant, recreation center, cinema, theater, or store. The public markets we have introduced are there but what you speak of is possible if there are individual initiatives in this connection. The important point is that nobody exploits anyone elses's efforts. The opportunity is there for anyone wishing to share a small or big production project with one or more other people.

Matar: There is a difference between that being possible and you personally backing such a trend, because your backing would create activity and give reassurance and a sense of stability to those contemplating commercial initiatives; and, for example, is there any room for Arab and foreign investment in the Libyan Jamahiriyah?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Arab investment is of course possible, but foreign investment is subject to many political and economic considerations. The fact that you ask me to back what you speak of does not mean that I do not already do that. What is important is that initiatives begin.

Matar: Would you give the unrevolutionary trend in Libya a chance to publish its own newspaper and exercise intellectual activity, so long as that trend is patriotic and reassuring, following the release of prisoners and the demolition of prisons?

Al-Qadhdhafi: There is nothing to fear from the trend you speak of. I am sure that it died democratically after the emergence of the authority of the people. I am also sure that there is no room for a reactionary publication. Furthermore, no citizen needs a newspaper as long as he is a member of the people's congress, where he can say whatever he wants, including what he might want to say in such a newspaper.

Matar: Is there any possibility of staging festivals in archeological areas, similar to the Jarash festival in Jordan and the Babylon festival in Iraq? To further clarify I ask: Is there any possibility of having an annual arts festival in Sabratah (in the west of the Jamahiriyah) and another in Labdah (in the east)—one to which the best art troupes in the world would be invited, and the other confined to Arab art heritage in which Arab and Islamic orchestras would participate?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Actually, I personally would support such a proposal and wish it could be implemented. This comes under the jurisdiction of the General People's Congress People's Committee for Culture. Something similar was started last year. The idea is fine, anyway.

Matar: Is there any chance of a settlement of the Chad question in the near future, and how are things with Sudan?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Relations with Sudan are excellent and we give aid in the fields of health, well drilling, education, and other sectors. As regards the Chadian question, it is now remote from Libya. The problem is now between Goukouni [Oueddei] and [Hissein] Habre following the failure of the African reconciliation efforts and the resumption of fighting between them. The Chad issue no longer concerns us, in the sense that it is now a conflict between Goukouni and Habre.

Matar: Is there any hope of better relations with Egypt?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We would embrace Egypt if it abandoned the enemy.

Matar: Could Egypt's link to the Camp David treaty not be seen as similar to the Marxist revolutionary regime in Cuba accepting a U.S. base in that country?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What do you mean?

Matar: The presence of such a base has not prevented Libya from establishing good relations with President Castro's regime and has not prevented Castro himself from leaving to circumstances a fait accompli which was imposed on him.

Al-Qadhdhafi: The regime is one thing and the presence of the base is another. As far as Cuba is concerned the regime does not support the United States. It is quite the opposite in the case of Egypt, where the regime chooses to be bound by a treaty which was not imposed by anyone. The Cuban regime is against imperialism. When the Egyptian regime becomes opposed to Zionism and confirms that, then it will be a different matter.

Matar: Do you not see any positive points in the Egyptian position?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I see no such points whatever. So there can be no rapprochement with an Arab regime that is linked to the enemy, unless that regime declares itself helpless and under occupation. As this has not happened, that regime must be besieged.

Matar: Is the Egyptian president supposed to declare that or practice it? Do the steps taken by President Mubarak every now and then not seem to be signals that he is trying to extricate himself from a situation that was imposed on him?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I see no such thing at all. Far from being against the enemy, all the practices serve the enemy, and cooperation with the United States benefits the enemy. That is why Palestinians have been buried alive. The Egyptian practices have produced consequences such as burial of Palestinians alive, which Hitler did not even do to the Jews.

Matar: Do you believe that the uprising could develop to the point where the West Bank and Gaza would become the Vietnam of the Middle East?

Al-Qadhdhafi: That is possible, but is there a conscious decision or an inclination to that effect? I cannot answer that, but I can say that the uprising should be turned into underground military action like that by EOKA [National Organization of Cypriot Fighters] in Cyprus and the IRA [Irish Republican Army] in Ireland. I urge the uprising to go underground and resist secretly, so that everything would be normal in the daytime but the kidnapping and explosions would begin at night, reaching Haifa, Jafia, and Acre. If there is no possibility of moving in that direction, then the uprising should be turned into a popular rejection movement with secret sabotage of all Israeli establishments wherever they may be. To further explain what I mean, I say that the method of secret sabotage should be used against the enemy, such as burying pins in Palestinian oranges. That is what I mean by secret sabotage, and it should take place everywhere. There should also be civil disobedience.

Matar: Does such secret sabotage require discussion and a strategy?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What I mean is that those involved in the uprising must surely have leadership, which should steer the rising people to armed resistance or secret sabotage and civil disobedience.

Matar: How strong are your contacts with the leaders of the uprising, or, let us say, its symbols? And how close are your contacts with the Egyptian Revolution organization? Or do you have no contacts with either?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We have had telephone contacts with the occupied territory.

Matar: Did you speak to them personally, and were they the leaders of the uprising?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I spoke to them myself and it was clear that they were from the leadership. It is possible to distinguish between the tone of a genuine leader and that of a leadership pretender. As regards the Egyptian Revolution organization, we have no direct contacts with it, but this does not mean that we do not support it.

Matar: On the issue of the uprising, do you not believe that you could play an important part in supporting the uprising through an emergency summit conference, as called for by President Bendjedid?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We welcome the idea of a summit. A meeting must be held to do something for the uprising.

Matar: Would you participate personally in such a conference, or will you continue to boycott Arab summit conferences?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I would participate personally in such a summit and I would do everything possible to ensure its success.

Matar: This would be one of the few times you had participated in an Arab summit conference.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Such a summit deserves my participation.

Matar: Would you just attend, or would you extend support, offer initiatives, and adhere to resolutions passed?

Al-Qadhdhafi: If the resolutions lived up to expectations, then I would abide by them and would not spare any support to ensure the necessary success of this summit. I believe that the summit should draw up an Arab program for spreading the uprising to include all Palestine, not just the areas occupied since 1967, so that talk of Israel would not be talk of something taken for granted.

Matar: You are the common link between all the Palestinians in the diaspora without exception. It is noticeable that, despite the uprising, Palestinian ranks are still not united. Do you not believe that this is an opportunity for more pressure from you in the interest of uniting the ranks?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This means that the conceders and deviators should first return to a sound course. The Palestinian factions should have united before the uprising. The fact that they have not united even since the uprising raises a big question mark.

Matar: You are the only Arab ruler who continues to attack the United States.

Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting: I am not a ruler. If I were a ruler I would not have kept up my attacks on the United States.

Matar: Listening to the Libyan media, one would conclude that there is no chance of U.S.-Libyan reconciliation. Will your present attitude continue until the end of President Reagan's administration in a few months time, or will the present state of affairs continue if he is succeeded by another Republican?

We also asked the brother colonel: Do you prefer the Democrats to the Republicans, and would you like the Democratic candidate to win?

We also asked: Now that the American presidential election campaign is clear, as far as powers and names are concerned, can you tell us which candidate you would prefer to see in the White House, and why?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No new U.S. President will be as trivial and insane as Reagan. That man is a criminal and is the vilest man in history. I therefore believe that any new president would seek to improve relations with us. Any new president would be bound to benefit from Reagan's mistakes and would, naturally, not follow his steps, and so relations would improve. For our part, we have wronged nobody. What is required is a change in the U.S. position.

Matar: What do you stand to lose from the tension in relations with the United States?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The United States is the loser, because all the world liberation forces and the persecuted U.S. groups are getting more and more angry with the United States and are extremely sympathetic to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Furthermore, U.S. companies have lost and are still losing. The Americans are the losers, and they must change their policy toward the Arab nation if matters are to return to normal.

Matar: Is this attitude to the United States a result of the U.S. position on Palestine, or is it because the current U.S. Administration committed aggression against you personally in what may be seen as something akin to a murder attempt?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Akin to an attempt? It was a clear, premeditated murder attempt.

Matar: Would your position have been softer if that attempt and aggression had not taken place?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Whether or not there was an attempt, our attitude to the United States is the same as it was before the aggression it committed against us. Our position stems from the fact that the United States is aligned against the Arabs, is evil, and wants to control the world. In the future they will not be able to afford the cost of their bases abroad. That expenditure now comes from Arab funds, so it actually affects oil and the price of oil. The United States is conspiring with Zionism to destroy the Arab entity.

[Matar] Before bidding Col al-Qadhdhafi farewell and leaving his tent in Surt, his high appreciation of the changes introduced by General Secretary Gorbachev in the Soviet Union, described by him as "a revolution," were still raising one question after another in my mind: as to whether we are in an era of changing attitudes, even if such attitudes are expressions of deep-rooted ideologies in a society.

The relaxations in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, including the release of political prisoners and the restoration of traditional commercial work, not to mention other surprises about to be announced, are perhaps the beginning of a reassessment that could be completed within a year.

'Text' of Joint Communique With Tunisia

LD052342 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1948 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] A joint communique on the meeting of the third session of the higher joint committee on economic and social cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia, which included the General People's Committee [GPC] of the Great Jamahiriyah and the Tunisian Council of Ministers, has been issued in Tripoli and Tunia. Here is the text:

Within the context of the ancient relations between the fraternal peoples in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Tunisian Republic, in consolidation of the relations of fraternity and cooperation between the two sister countries, and in implementation of the provisions of the agreement signed by them on 27 February 1988 concerning the setting up of a joint higher committee and the directives of the leaders of the two countries following their meeting in Tunis from 4 to 6 February 1988, the joint higher committee held its third session in Tripoli on April 1988. The Libyan side was led by brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the GPC and the Tunisian side was led by Brother Hedi Baccouche, prime minister.

The work of the committee was opened by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, with a comprehensive speech in which he confirmed in particular that the central objective of this bilateral action was to achieve through solidarity, complementarity, and respect for the special considerations of each of the two countries, a framework which will achieve unity at the bilateral, regional, and Arab levels. He saluted the change witnessed by the Tunisian Rpeublic on 7 November 1987, when His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali assumed the presidency, and the positive effect which this transformation has had on relations between the two countries.

He extended greetings and admiration to the hero of this historic transformation and to his aides in the new era; he called on the Tunisian Government and the GPC to act in the spirit of a single team and not to confine discussions of joint issues to what serves the interests of one party alone. He called for work in the interest of the Tunisian era, irrespective of any other considerations; for the announcement of the withdrawal of the military units stationed along the border with Tunisia and the dissolution of the Badr military formation as an expression of trust in the new era in Tunisia and of peace of mind regarding the possibilty of confrontation between the two countries. He praised the importance of the formula reached by the two countries in the organization of labor between them in a calm, scientific, and exemplary way which expresses their hope for cooperation, complementarity, and unity with the best methods.

The prime minister, Brother Hedi Baccouche, replied to Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, first conveying the greetings of his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his optimism over the positive development of relations between the two countries, and how he follows closely the revolutionary tenacity in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, which was shown in the release of prisoners and the raising of great hopes in every Arab.

The prime minister concentrated on: The existence, following the 7 November changes, of reasons for solidarity and unionist action derived from Tunisia's belief in the new era, in the need to build comprehensive

cooperation that is complementary and can be a model for the Maghreb economy and which is distinguished by the soundness of its conviction, its quietness, and the warmth of the enthusiasm and the depth of the awareness which leads to the realization of unity.

He considered this first meeting during Tunisia's new era as a step in the right direction which guarantees a balance between aspirations and resources and takes into account the special contacts between the people of the two countries.

Afterward the committee reviewed the results of the work of the preparatory committee and expressed its satisfaction with the fraternal atmosphere and understanding which prevailed at the talks and the results, affirming the strengthening of cooperation and integration in various spheres.

The higher committee approved the minutes of the session which was drafted by the preparatory committee and which included in particular:

1. In the sphere of planning: Out of the awareness of the importance of planning as a scientific and practical method to deepen and develop economic social, scientific and technical cooperation arose the aim of establishing strong and close relations between the planning machineries in order to guarantee and coordinate the development plans in the two countries.

The minutes of cooperation in this connection were signed.

2. In the sphere of trade exchange: The committee affirmed its resolve to strengthen and develop trade relations between the two countries. In this connection, agreement was reached:

a. To exchange the documents of ratification of the trade and customs agreement signed between them.

b. To prepare a program for trade exchanges for 1988-91.

c. To give priority to supplying the needs of the two markets of products produced in either countries.

d. To work for joint import and export.

e. To strengthen and boost the joint trade office and to work for setting up a joint Maghreb economic office.

The committee expressed its satisfaction with the cooperation that has been established in the sphere of energy, and agreement was reached on the following:

a. To meet part of the Tunisian Republic's needs in oil products and gas.

b. To complete the feasibility study of laying a pipeline for transporting the oil products from the refinery in Al-Zawiyah to the port of Jarjis.

c. To study the possibility of Libyan companies building stations for the distribution of oil products in Tunisia.

c. [as heard] To cooperate in the field of oil recycling.

3. Industry: The committee affirmed the importance of cooperation in the sphere of industry with the aim of creating a complementary industrial economy between the two countries,and agreement was reached on the following:

a. To invite specialized companies in the two countries to cooperate and integrate in assembling tractors, agricultural equipment, trucks, tires, and in the pharmaceutical industry.

b. To establish mutual participation in the industry of hollow glass and the fittings for electricity lines in the Tunisian Republic, and for sheet glass and high-voltage cables in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

c. To continue the study of projects for manufacturing cotton yarn and ammonitrates urea on the bilateral level, and compressors and electric isolators at the level of Maghreb countries.

d. To study the possibility of Libyan participation in Tunisian-Algerian projects for the manufacturing of white cement, diesel engines, steel structures, and textile looms, and Tunisia's participation in Libyan-Algerian projects for the manufacturing of passenger and light vehicles, desert vehicles, high-powered diesel engines, (?transformers), aluminum, wood, and furniture.

4. Agriculture and sea resources: The committee stressed the importance of cooperation in the agricultural field with regard to hastening the economic integration and sufficiency of food in the two countries. It has agreed on the following:

a. Using all natural agricultural and human resources in a scientific way to serve the economies of the two countries; the exchange of geological and hydrological information on the joint water table to make the most of water resources and to exploit brackish water and hot spring water in agriculture in an examplary way.

b. Intensifying cooperation in the production of seeds, in apiculture, aviculture, and in the fight against desertification, diseases and insects.

c. Reviving the Tunisian-Libyan Sea Fishing Company and studying the possibility of founding a joint company for building and repairing fishing boats.

5. In the field of transportation and tourism it has been agreed to:

a. Increase the numbers of tourists between the two fraternal countries, and encourage tourism.

b. Cooperate in vocational training in the hotel services sector.

c. Increase investment in tourism between the two countries.

d. Start running passenger transportation services by land.

e. Activate the Tunisian-Libyan company for maritime transport.

6. In the field of communications the committee has expressed its satisfaction with regard to the positive steps that have been achieved in the field of communications and stressed the importance of strengthening and developing cooperation in this field and the following has been agreed:

a. Completing the project of underground axial cable between the two countries.

b. Completing the necessary stage in the realization of the Ra's Jadir-Medenine Road.

c. Continuing to study the benefits of Tripoli-Sfax railway project.

The committee entrusted the competent authorities in the two countries to study the possibility of laying down a comprehensive policy for developing the communications network linking the two countries with the aim of achieving integration between them in a way that will lead to the consolidation of production fields at the level of the great Arab Maghreb.

7. In the construction field the committee has agreed to:

a. Invite the specialized establishments and companies in the two countries to participate in the implementation of architectural projects in both countries.

b. Complete the foundation of the joint Tunisian company for building and maintaining infrastructure.

8. Joint investments: The committee expressed its satisfaction for what has been achieved in the field of joint investments and stressed the importance of strengthening and developing cooperation in this field with the aim of increasing production and strengthening the field of services in the framework of economic integration between the two countries.

9. Social and consular cooperation: The committee discussed topics of social and consular cooperation, knowing the effective impact on the success of the program of economic integration. It agreed on the following:

a. The necessity to sign a consular agreement between the two countries, as projects have been exchanged in this field and May 1988 has been set as a deadline for the completion of this.

b. Intensifying cooperation in the fields of vocational training and the exchange of experts and teachers.

c. Signing a new agreement on social security.

d. Cooperation in the field of the productive family.

e. Giving priority to Tunisian labor in the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in accordance with its needs and reaching agreement on a settlement of the conditions of Tunisian labor in the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In this context, it was decided to call on the competent committee to follow up and develop the agreement on manpower signed by the two countries.

10. [as heard] In cooperation in the fields of education, information, and culture, agreement was reached on the following:

a. Drawing up detailed programs for the development of cooperation between the universities and higher institutions and the centers for scientific research to give an impetus to educational relations between the two countries.

b. Reviving and activating the joint technical committee on bringing closer and uniting the educational curricula between the two countries.

c. Drawing up a joint program for manufacturing educational aids.

d. Clarifying the priority treatment of the deputation of available expertise in the two countries.

e. Signing a program for implementing cultural cooperation during the coming 3 months.

f. Continuing to support the Arab Book House.

g. Exchanging written press and audio-visual cultural programs and radio dispatches on national days and events.

h. Studying the possibility of joint establishments for information productions.

i. Cooperating between the two countries' news agencies.

11. Youth and sport

The committee confirmed the importance in the field of childhood, youth, and sport, and it was agreed to exchange youth delegations and to organize joint activities between these organizations with sports competitions and related events.

12. Health cooperation

Agreement was reached on the exchange of expertise, research, information, and medical publications, and on coordination in the health field at the regional and international organizational level.

13. Technical cooperation and the exchange of expertise

Agreement was reached on the consolidation of cooperation in this field and on the drawing up of an agreement defining the conditions of the work of the experts with the final form being prepared during the coming 3 months.

14. In the field of foreign policy

Hold direct contacts between the competent authorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Tunisian Republic and the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau with a view to consult, exchange analyses, and coordinate attitudes on Arab and international issues.

Work to give impetus to coordination and the complementary nature between them, to achieve firm foundations for achieving unity of the great Arab Maghreb as a first step toward comprehensive Arab unity.

Continue comprehensive support for the brave uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and for their struggle under the leadership of the PLO, its sole legitimate representative, for the liberation of its land from the Zionist occupation, and the building there of its independent state.

Both sides expressed their anxiety over the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran and earnestly call for the halting of this war in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 598.

Support the people of South Africa and Namibia against colonialism and racial discrimination.

15. Follow-up

a. The joint higher committee decided to call on the follow-up committee to hold its next meeting in Tunis in October 1988 to follow up on the implementation of what was agreed upon and to prepare for the coming session of the higher committee; and to:

b. Call on the four specialist committees provided for in the protocol of the preparatory committee meeting to meet before this date at the ministerial and secretary general level on dates to be defined jointly to follow up on work by the technical committee and to implement what was agreed upon and present the results to the follow up committee before its next session.

c. Create a joint permament secretariat to be run by senior officials from the two countries to monitor the implementation of what is agreed on through the work of the joint higher committee and its specialist committees, and the presentation of regular quarterly reports on this to the two chairmen of the follow up committee in the two countries.

d. Create a joint center for research, studies, documentation, and publishing, specializing in the research on the various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Agreement was reached on holding the fourth meeting of the joint higher committee in Tunis in the first quarter of 1989. The Tunisian delegation expressed its deep gratitude at the extreme hospitality accorded it during its stay in the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Issued in Tripoli 5 April 1988.

Morocco

Soviet Friendship Delegation Arrives

LD062140 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1540 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Rabat, 6 April (MAP)—A Soviet delegation led by Viktor Vaht, secretary of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Society in the Republic of Estonia, arrived in Morocco at the invitation of the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Society.

The head of the Soviet delegation said in a statement to journalists that he and the delegation accompanying him are happy to pay this visit, which comes within the framework of the consolidation of cultural relations between the two countries.

He said this visit is aimed at informing and acquainting the Moroccan people with the heritage and culture of the Soviet people, by way of shows to be presented by the Soviet ballet throughout various regions and provinces of the Kingdom.

Sudan

Libya's Jabir Meets With Al-Mahdi, Others

LD060817 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief, met with the chairman and members of Sudan's State Council in Khartoum. During the meeting the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the means to promote them.

Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir also met with Brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudanese prime minister and leader of the Al-Ummah Party, yesterday evening. He also met with Brother Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. [words indistinct]

Attends Anniversary Festivities

LD061935 Tripoli JANA in English 1712 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Tayr [April] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, attended the official celebrations conducted yesterday in the gardens of the presidential palace in Khartoum on the 3rd anniversary of the uprising that toppled the regime of appendage Numayri.

Mr. al-Mirghani, president of Sudan's State Council, in his speech, has saluted Col. Jabir and his accompanying delegation for attending these celebrations.

He stresses that April revolution was the only solution to get rid of the repressive regime of Numayri.

He lauds the support given by the Sudanese Armed Forces to the Sudanese people which toppled Numayri's dictatorship.

Meanwhile, Mr. al-Mirghani has paid tribute to the raging revolution in occupied Palestine waged by the intrepid children of stones. Such revolution against the Zionist enemy will mark the inevitability of victory over this enemy.

Statement Issued on Assembly Deliberations

JN061509 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Apr (SUNA)—In a joint statement issued today, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Al-Ummah Party, and Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, announced that it has become clear from the open deliberations and fruitful consultations that have been held, that the influential political forces in the Constituent Assembly agree in principle to enter a new phase during the second half of the duration of the Constituent Assembly/Parliament, unifying national capabilities to resolve national issues and delineating the issues and policies which national capabilities must try to resolve.

The two leaders said they will work with the other political forces, especially the southern parties and the Sudanese National Party, to guarantee that the discussions being held in the Constituent Assembly on the prime minister's statement before the Assembly on 15 March, would lead to the adoption of a conciliatory stand tomorrow, Thursday.

They added that this conciliatory stand will be followed by steps aimed at drawing up a charter and forming the desired national reconciliation government.

In the statement, the two leaders congratulated the Sudanese people on the third anniversary of the glorious popular uprising which restored the freedom and dignity of the people and opened wide the door for the people to rally all of their energies for the resolution of their national issues.

Tunisia

Baccouche Reports to Cabinet on Visit to Libya

LD062023 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic, chaired the regular meeting of the Council of Ministers this morning at Government Palace in the Casbah. [passage omitted]

At the start of its proceedings, the Council heard a report by the prime minister on the result of his official visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he led the Tunisian delegation to the meeting of the higher Tunisian-Libyan committee.

The prime minister informed the Council of his discussions with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and with his counterpart, the secretary of the General People's Committee.

He noted, in particular, that the change in relations between the two countries is based on a mutual desire to cooperate on the basis of respect and friendship.

The prime minister stressed that this visit constituted an important step toward cooperation between the two countries, in that it facilitated the conclusion of a number of agreements concerning trade, social security, culture, and education.

In particular, he noted that the two sides signed a document concerning the continental shelf, stipulating the establishment of a joint institution to exploit its resources. [passage omitted]

The economic minister reviewed the results of the proceedings of the higher joint Tunisian-Libyan committee. He specifically addressed aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

In this respect, agreement was reached on a medium- and long-term program of trade and on the conclusion of agreements on frameworks for cooperation in all relevant spheres. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives PRC Official 5 Apr

JN061455 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Manama, 5 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, received at noon today Yang Fuchang, director of the West Asian and North African Affairs Department [title as received] of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

In a statement following the meeting, the PRC official said he reviewed with the prime minister aspects of bilateral cooperation in the trade and economic fields as well as current regional developments and issues of common interest to both states. He added that Bahraini-PRC relations have developed during the past few years, especially in the trade and economic fields. He voiced the hope that bilateral cooperation in these fields will be increased and enhanced.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Protecting Oil Installations

LD071015 Kuwait KUNA in English 0918 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 7 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has said that plans have been drawn up between the Ministries of Defense and Interior and the National Guards to foster protection of the country's oil installations.

Lessons have been learnt from past experiences and a joint plan has been set up to ensure safety of the oil installations of the country against all possible risks, the minister told the weekly "AL-HAWADITH" magazine edition appearing here Friday.

He also said that a plan has been prepared to defend the coastal belt of the country but did not go into details in his lengthy interview which covered a host of other issues of interest to his country.

After relying on the Almighty for its defense, Kuwait depends on the profound confidence of the political leadership in guaranteeing the security of Kuwait and consolidating the interior front, the minister said.

The Kuwaiti Armed Forces, acting under guidance and directions of h.h. the Amir, will fahar [as received] any forces trying to infringe on the sovereignty of the country, he said, adding Kuwait's membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the wider umbrella of the Arab league are added guarantees for safety.

The Kuwaiti Defense Minister said that according to the charter of the GCC, any attack on Kuwait is viewed as an attack on all six members of the Council and will be confronted collectively.

In this connection, he said, the Kuwaiti Army has become highly trained and fully knowledgeable in modern warfare techniques thanks to the Kuwaiti instructors, pointing out that wars are nowadays fought on sophisticated weaponry.

Shaykh Nawwaf defended Saudi Arabia's acquisition of the Chinese-made medium-range ballistic missiles as warranted right of the Kingdom in defending itself.

He denounced Israel's threats to strike the missiles as gross interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom, warning that all the Arab and friendly countries will side with Saudi Arabia if exposed to attacks.

Visiting Soviet Delegation Condemns Hijacking

LD070947 Kuwait KUNA in English 0903 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 7 (KUNA)—A Soviet senior official Thursday condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, noting that the Soviet Union, "condemns such terrorist techniques."

Georgiy Tazarevich, deputy premier of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, who arrived here today, expressed hope that the ordeal would come to an end peacefully as soon as possible.

Tazarevich, who was speaking to KUNA is here within the framework of a tour to a number of states in the region. He said that his talks, with top Kuwaiti officials, during the four-day visit, will touch on bilateral relations.

In response to a question Tazarevich said there is a Soviet political decision on the withdrawal from Afghanistan, noting that the Soviet leadership has decided to pull out next May should an agreement be reached between Pakistan and Afghanistan in their Geneva talks.

The talks have failed, Tazarevich said adding therefore the pull out was suspended too. He also noted that the political decision is still existing, however.

Tazarevich, who arrived here from Muscat where he held similar talks with Omani officials topped by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, is expcted to meet with his highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Oman

Officials Receive Supreme Soviet Delegation

JN051503 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received in his office this morning the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation headed by Georgiy Tarazevich, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who is currently visiting the Sultanate.

The Soviet delegation comprises Kanoatov, member of the Youth Affairs Commission at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Council of Nationalities and chairman of the Tadzhikistav Soviet Socialist Republic Union of Writers; Lovev, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Foreign Affairs Commission and TASS director general; (Yuriy Geradinov), director of the Arab countries section of the Foreign Relations Department at the CPSU Central Committee [title as heard]; and [name indistinct], the principal rapporteur at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium [title as heard].

The meeting was attended by ('Abdu Koliv), charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in Muscat.

During the meeting, Shaykh Fahd Al Bu Sa'id welcomed the head of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation and the delegation members. He praised the positive spirit prevailing in relations between the sultanate and the Soviet Union.

The head of the Soviet delegation also expressed admiration and appreciation of efforts to achieve development and growth in the Sultanate in all fields. He also voiced his country's appreciation for cooperation between the two countries, stressing the willingness of the Soviet leadership to promote this cooperation in the interests of the two peoples.

During the meeting, talks centered on relations between the two friendly countries, ways to promote cooperation in various fields, the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region, and international issues of common interest.

Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn 'Ali Muhammad Maktabi, speaker of the Consultative Assembly of the state, received Georgiy Tarazevich, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and his delegation at the Assembly headquarters at 1030 today.

The Assembly speaker explained the Consultative Assembly's goals, powers, and achievements in the past in economic and social fields of interest to the homeland and citizens.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations. The head of the Soviet delegation explained the formation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The members of the visiting delegation praised the policies and the method of the Consultative Assembly and its economic and social achievements.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Salim al-'Isa'i, deputies to the Assembly speaker, and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Madyuni, secretary general of the Assembly.

PDRY

Minutes of Joint Yemeni Project Signed

EA062103 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Minutes of the first 1988 session of the Board of Directors of the Joint Yemeni Natural Resources Project were signed this morning at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

The minutes were signed by Brothers Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier and minister of energy and minerals, and by Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and natural resources and member of the Permament Committee in the northern part of the homeland, in the presence of members of the board of directors of the project from both parts and officials from the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and the Ministry of State for Unity Affairs.

The minutes comprise decisions pertaining to the completion of work on the first phase of the project which includes [word indistinct] preparation of standardized geological, hydrological and geophysical maps for the two parts of the Yemen to locate the natural resources of the two parts, in light of which joint detailed projects will be set up for exploiting those resources.

Saudi Arabia

PRC Foreign Minister Confirms Missile Sale

OW060308 Beijing XINHUA in English 0246 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing, April 6 (XINHUA) — Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian today confirmed that China has sold a number of ground-to-ground missiles to Saudi Arabia.

But he was quick to add that the Saudi Arabian Government has promised that it will not transfer or be the first to use the missiles it bought from China and will use them only for defense purposes. "We believe that the Saudi Arabian Government will honor its commitment," Wu stated.

Answering a question by a TIME magazine reporter at a press conference here this morning, Wu said that the sales of ground-to-ground missiles to Saudi Arabia will help stabilize the situation in that country and in the Middle East in general.

The foreign minister pointed out that some people in Israel have openly threatened that they will carry out military retaliations against Saudi Arabia on this account.

This threat has been met with condemnation by other Arab countries, and China supports the just stand of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries in condemning the Isreali threat, Wu stressed.

Responding to another question, he said that China wishes to establish diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia as soon as possible since the relations between the two countries have developed in various fields in recent years.

He also noted that Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan has been well received on his visit to Saudia Arabia, and Qi is expected to return today.

United Arab Emirates

Soviet Official Holds Abu Dhabi News Conference

JN051044 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Apr (WAKH)—A high-ranking Soviet official today expressed the Soviet Union's appreciation for the UAE's "wise and balanced" stand on international issues.

Georgiy Tarazevich, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said that during his meeting with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan he felt His Highness Shaykh Zayid pays special attention to the future of the UAE and the entire region.

At a press conference here this evening, Tarazevich said during his talks with UAE officials he noticed closer viewpoints regarding many issues, especially regarding the Arab-Zionist conflict.

He said both sides have a genuine desire to promote bilateral cooperation in economic, political, and cultural fields.

He added that he explained to UAE officials the Soviet Union's foreign policy, which is based on the principles of understanding and friendship within the framework of the "new political thinking" under CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

Answering a question, the Soviet official said he will convey UAE officials' viewpoints to the Kremlin leadership, especially regarding urging the two superpowers to shoulder their responsibilities toward a speedy solution to the Iraq-Iran war and putting an end to Israel's brutal measures against the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Tarazevich said the Soviet Union is always ready to discuss various issues, including regional issues, during the expected summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev in Moscow in May.

Tarazevich criticized the new U.S. approach to the Middle East and the intransigent stand of Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejecting the idea of an international peace conference and PLO participation in any peace talks.

He said the U.S. plan carried by Secretary of State George Shultz is "unclear" and does not deal with the future of approximately 200 Zionist settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the plan also ignores the future of the Arab part of occupied Jerusalem.

Yemen Arab Republic

Oil Minister Makes Statement, Leaves for Aden

JN041857 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Ahmad al-Muhani, petroleum and mineral resources minister, left this afternoon for Aden. He is leading the delegation of the northern half [of Yemen] to meetings of the board of the joint Yemeni project for natural resources, to be held in Aden from 4 to 6 April.

Speaking to SABA', the minister said the meetings are followups to those held in Sanaa in December 1985. He pointed out that the joint project aims to conduct aerial geophysical surveys of all the areas of the two halves of the homeland.

Additionally, the project seeks to design joint networks to monitor water sources and prepare a training program for Yemeni technical cadres on the exploitation of natural resources.

UN Informed of Iranian Missile Attack on Kirkuk

JN051749 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The United Nations, 5 Apr (INA)—Iraq has informed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the aggressive and expansionist Iranian regime fired a surface-to-surface missile on Kirkuk on Friday [1 April].

This came in a message handed today to the members of the UN Security Council by 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations. The message pointed out that the missile landed on a densely populated area, martyred a number of women and children, wounded a number of civilians, and also demolished or damaged houses, commercial stores, and civilian property.

Spokesman Denies Chemical Weapons Accusations

JN051047 Baghdad INA in English 1021 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 5, INA—An Iraqi responsible spokesman described news reports propagated by the human rights defence committee in Gottingen, West Germany quoted from Iranian allegations on killing Iraqi civilians affected by poisonous gases as cheap attempt to cover up vicious Iranian atrocities.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said those reports are completely groundless and are after covering up Iran's use of chemical weapons against Iraqi civilians in Halabjah sector and other northern areas.

The spokesman added that Iran, now, exploits the misguiding drive of pushing world public opinion towards serving its aggressive goals and eliminating consequences of documented facts about Iran's use of chemical weapons.

The spokesman pointed out that 88 Iraqi military men are hospitalized in Baghdad after being seriously injured of an Iranian chemical strike.

The spokesman called upon the U.N. and international community to boycott and isolate Iran for its clear violation of international laws and objectives, meddling in aggression on Iraq and use of chemical weapons against its people and forces defending its sovereignty and security.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Missile Hits Baghdad 6 Apr

JN061449 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1434 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 6 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. At 1706 [1306 GMT] today, the Zionist Iranian regime launched a missile at our historic capital Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area. As a result, a number of civilians, including women and children, were martyred and wounded and a number of houses, shops, and cars were damaged. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 6 April 1988

Planes Raid 8 Iranian Cities

JN061444 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1412 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,119 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Air Force has carried out the following heroic missions deep inside Iran and over the Arabian Gulf waters:

1. At 0949 [0549 GMT] today our planes dealt a blow to the city of Dezful.

2. At 0955 our planes dealt another blow to the city of Dezful.

3. At the same time other planes launched a raid on the city of Shushtar.

4. At 0958 our planes raided the city of Masjed-e Soleyman.

5. At 1030 our planes dealt a blow to the city of Ilam.

6. At 1031 our planes launched a raid on the city of Reza'iyeh [Orumiyeh].

7. At 1033 our planes dealt a blow to the city of Shahabad [Eslamabad].

8. At 1035 our planes raided the city of Shahpur.

9. At 1516 our planes dealt a blow to the city of Zaviyeh.

10. Our planes raided a very large maritime target near the Sheykh Sho'eyb Island [Lavan Island] last night. They scored an accurate and effective hit.

God bless the men of our Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks. From God we derive resolve and success.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 April 1988

Communique No 3,120

JN061705 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—Iraqi warplanes today carried out 112 combat missions against enemy units in the sectors of operation and over Iranian cities while the helicopter gunships carried out 96 combat sorties against the enemy.

Communique No 3,120 issued by the Armed Forces General Command today said that the enemy sustained heavy losses as a result of these Irai raids. The following is the text of the Armed Forces General Commands communique:

Communique No 3,120 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our untis' activities for last night and today:

1. Our valiant Air Force aircraft carried out 112 combat missions to perform the duties that were mentioned in our Communique No 3,119 issued this afternoon and to deal blows against enemy units in the sectors of operation. After carrying out these duties, all our aircraft returned safely to base except one aircraft which crashed over enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of its pilot.

2. The valiant helicopter gunship knights continued to deal blows to the enemy rogues, weapons emplacements, and military hardware, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in 96 combat sorties today. After carrying out their duteis, they returned safely to base under God's protection.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 24 rogues; destroyed 1 shovel, 1 tank, and 5 vehicles; and blew up 3 ammunition dumps. Our heavy artillery in the same sector also achieved the following:

a. The killing of 20 enemy troops.

b. The destruction of several enemy positions and one guard detachment whose members were killed.

c. Several enemy infantry groups were pounded.

d. One ammuniton dump was blown up.

4. Eight enemy rogues were killed and five infantry positions and four machineguns were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One 106-mm gun and a large vehicle were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one medium machinegun and one infantry postion were destroyed, three vehicles were damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. At 1706 today the Zionist Iranian regime launched a missile at our historic capital Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area, martyring or wounding several civilians, including women and children, and damaging a number of houses, shops, and cars.

Using long-range artillery, the crimianl Iranian regime also today shelled residential areas in 'Ali al-Gharbi and Darband-i Khan. As a result of the enemy shelling, several citizens were either martyred or wounded and several shops and civilian proeprties were damaged.

Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 April 1988

5 Killed, 35 Injured in Raid

JN061905 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1845 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 6 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1800 [1400 GMT] today, the Iranian enemy—enemy of life, childhood, and learning—with the utmost cruelty, treachery, and cowardice sent two of its aircraft toward a playground in the city of Kallar. The incident resulted in the martyrdom of 5 students and the injury of 35, including 13 children.

This is the second crime perpetrated by the Iranian regime within 2 days against schoolboys. Let public opinion and its popular and official organizations hear that. For our part, we are bound to avenge our righteous martyrs and respond to these ugly crimes, for which the Iranian regime will pay dearly.

[Dated] 6 April 1988

Missile Strike on Tehran 7 Apr

JN070610 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0557 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the help of God the 67th missile strike was launched on Tehran, the capital of the charlatans, with Al-Husayn missiles at 0929 [0529 GMT] today. May God bless you O strugglers in the military industries organization and in the Al-Husayn missile force. God grants success.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

2d Missile Fired at Tehran

JN070953 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0919 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help, the 69th blow with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran, capital of charlatans, at 1246 [0846 GMT] today. Blessed be your efforts, O courageous men of the Military Industries Organization, and God bless your efforts, O men of the heroic Al-Husayn missile force.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Missile Fired at Qom 7 Apr

JN070954 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0943 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1314 [0914 GMT] today, the 70th blow with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Qom, place of charlatanism and buffoonery. Pride and might to you, O men of the Military Industries Organization and heroes of the Al-Husayn missile force. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Missile Strike on Esfahan

JN071011 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0959 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April 1988]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and with the efforts of zealous men, the 71st missile strike was launched at Esfahan at 1327 [0927 GMT] today with Al-Husayn missiles.

O men of the Military Industries Organization and heroic men of the Al-Husayn missile force, you are the good elite who embody the will of your people in exacting retribution on the vile aggressors.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Bulgaria's Atanasov Arrives in Baghdad 5 Apr

JN051034 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1011 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, arrived here this afternoon on a visit to Iraq at the official invitation of Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister. The visit will last several days.

During the visit, Atanasov will attend the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation which began its meetings yesterday.

He was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; ministers, and senior Iraqi officials.

Notes 'Friendly' Ties

JN051306 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, has described the existing ties of friendship binding Iraq to Bulgaria on both party and state levels as friendly.

Atanasov said these relations are an extension of bilateral ties, the foundations of which were laid by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Todor Zhivkov, Bulgarian State Council chairman.

In a statement to INA, he added his current visit to Iraq will further enhance bilateral ties of cooperation. He said the suitable circumstances which allow for expanding these relations in the interests of both states currently exist.

For his part, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, said Iraqi-Bulgarian relations represent an advanced model reflecting Iraq's relations with other states. He added that bilateral relations have been bolstered, thanks to the desires of the two friendly states.

Bulgaria's Khristov Received by Ramadan

JN051328 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1217 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Khristo Khristov, minister at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations [title as received], who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they voiced satisfaction over the development of bilateral relations and expressed a mutual desire to increase bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

The talks also dealt with the results of meetings of the current session of the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee. They also reviewed issues to be discussed with Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, during his current visit to Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Karim Hasan Rida, minister of agriculture and irrigation and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Officials, Others React to Shultz Initiative

Shamir Urges Flexibility

TA061846 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Interview in Hebrew with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by unidentified correspondent; date and place not specified—videotaped with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Shamir] I regard the talks between ourselves and the Americans as another stage in the U.S. attempt to attain peace in the region.

[Correspondent] As things stand now, at a time when Syria has actually rejected the idea and Jordan has not yet answered, do you believe that the longevity of Shultz' initiative has been shortened?

[Shamir] It is not a question of longevity. It is a matter of searching for ways to achieve peace. Sometimes during the search one way is abandoned and a new way attempted, and in my opinion this is what we should do. We should not be dogmatic, we should not be inflexible, we should not hold tight to certain principles. The target is the deciding factor, and the target is peace. We must examine every way; as the saying goes, we should leave no stoned unturned.

[Correspondent] Before he left Israel the U.S. secretary of state said he is leaving the region, but not his plan. Can we expect political processes in the near future?

[Shamir] Maybe. I understand Shultz decided he is not giving up and is not despairing and is continuing to strive for peace; and if he is doing so, it can be assumed we can expect more steps.

[Correspondent] If Shultz' plan is not implemented, how do you see the situation in the area in the near future?

[Shamir] Look, if this plan is not implemented I hope there is another plan, because as long as there is no peace in the area we will search for peace and act for it. It will never stop until we have peace.

Peres on Jordanian Stand

TA061855 Jerusalem Television in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Interview in Hebrew with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent; date and place not specified—videotaped with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Peres, following your meeting this morning with the U.S. secretary of state, did you receive the impression that King Husayn is ready to enter negotiations?

[Peres] King Husayn is certainly aware of all the difficulties—they have not decreased in the last half a year or a year. Like us, however, he understands that there is no alternative to negotiations. If there is an alternative, it is so bad and terrible that we ought to do everything possible to continue searching for a peaceful solution.

[Correspondent] He asked for clarifications from Israel. Does [UN Resolution] 242 hold in the eastern sector?

[Peres] If we are saying, and I believe the Likud agrees to this, that we are entering negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the basis of Camp David and 242 and 338, then what does 242 mean? It does not refer to the Sinai anymore; it refers to the territory which is under discussion. We should not deceive ourselves about 242. It states that we should return some territories, not all of them, unless there is another alternative that everybody accepts.

[Correspondent] Mr Peres, how were you impressed by the remarks made by Mr Shultz in Amman: No to the PLO, no to a Palestinian state, and no to a binding international conference?

[Peres] It is a good thing that the same things are being said in Amman and in Jerusalem, that there is only one language; this is extremely important. We should, however, also understand the contents of the remarks. When you say no to a return to the 1967 borders, you are at the same time saying yes to a return of territories, although not all the territories. You have to regard all the contents for the sake of intellectual integrity. When you say that you are against a Palestinian state, you are saying that you are willing to solve the Palestinian problem in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework. We ought to remember that all the Palestinian inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria are Jordanian citizens. Are they willing to give up their Jordanian passports? What does it mean to say that we are going with the PLO? [as heard] They are Jordanian citizens, and Jordan is their representative. As long as they are Jordanian citizens it is necessary, from the international aspect, to negotiate with Jordan.

[Correspondent] Mr Peres, following this round of talks in Amman and Damascus, did you receive the impression that the U.S. secretary of state can continue with his initiative?

[Peres] I have never encountered such attempts to force pessimistic statements from me as at the present time. I remember it was said that the secretary will not come at all. When he came for the first time, it was said he will not return; and now that he came for the second time, people are saying it is all over. I do not know why this is so. My impression is that the secretary will continue to exert efforts in the negotiations process, and this is what he himself said. He said that he is stubborn [preceding word in English] and determined, and I believe him.

Weizman: Shultz Efforts Serious

TA061640 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Interview with Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Gid'on Reicher—videotaped "a short time ago in our studio"]

[Text] [Reicher] Mr Weizman, perhaps you can extricate us from our confusion. Shultz is leaving Israel, and we do not even know whether his visit was justified. You met him this morning with Shim'on Peres. What do you think he achieved in this visit?

[Weizman] First, I do not think there should be any confusion over an issue such as the peace process. In such a process, there are ups and downs. There is no doubt that if such a person as Mr Shultz, who represents only such a tiny country as the United States, goes to all the trouble of traveling back and forth—at present he is in Cairo, in the evening he will be in Riyadh, later in Amman, and then back here and there—I think we should not indulge ourselves in the joys of confusion and failure. We should be hopeful about the process which, in my opinion, is continuing, albeit with difficulties, and with a certain amount of stalemate. Many stalemated situations have been overcome, though.

[Reicher] How would you describe his mood, the manner in which he spoke with you—was he optimistic or pessimistic?

[Weizman] He is practical [preceding word in English], and he represents a country which does not like failures and which looks after its own interests; let us have no doubts regarding this. It is good fortune that we have mutual interests. Apparently King Husayn said today—I did not speak with him personally—that Mr Shultz is more pro-Israeli than pro-Arab. This is good for us, so what do we have to complain about. We have to encourage him and give him food for his thoughts. It is a shame that the Israeli Government does not give a clear yes, because the confusion and the question marks which you rightly point out are also shared by the Arab countries. I am sure that President Mubarak is asking him the same questions that are being asked here.

[Reicher] Everyone is asking Shultz questions. Husayn is asking questions and not giving answers. We have also asked, and now Mubarak is asking. Don't you think this is a very strange process? There are no answers, only questions.

[Weizman] There is no doubt that this process could have been pursued differently. If someone would have said yes—and I have recommended and still recommend that we say yes...[pauses] When everyone hesitates and no one utters a clear yes or no, then this is indeed a strange process. We have to get out of this strange situation. I take this opportunity to recommend that the Israeli prime minister say yes, and then we will see what King Husayn will say.

[Reicher] Before I ask you how you want to change Shamir's stand, I want to ask you about Shultz' tactics. Doesn't it look to you somewhat strange that this is now his second shuttle trip and there are no substantial results. Instead, there are continual vague talks and clarifications which are not actually clarifications.

[Weizman] First, there is a lot which is substantial. There are ideas on an international conference with which some people disagree. There are thoughts on interim arrangements and dates, and some people certainly disagree about these. Without these disagreements, there would have been no debate. I think it is inaccurate and unreasonable to say, however, that these shuttles are not serious. I think that the United States is a serious country. It contributes—and justly so—$3 billion annually to Israel.

The IDF is mostly built on the basis of U.S. equipment. I think it is incorrect to say that the shuttles of the U.S. secretary of state, who has come to make peace between us and the Arabs...[pauses] by the way, we ought to remember that we are not negotiating with the Americans over peace with the United States—we are negotiating with the Arabs through the United States.

[Reicher] In light of what you have just said, how do you and your party intend to influence Mr Shamir into saying yes, at least regarding the beginning of the process?

[Weizman] By continuing to say yes ourselves, and by continuing to offer thoughts which could contribute to the possibility that Mr Shamir will say yes—a thing which I hope will happen, although I doubt it...

[Reicher, interrupting] You doubt it?

[Weizman] At this stage, I doubt it. There are, however, stages, and people change. Today I read an article in HA'ARETZ on what has happened to Mr Shamir's thought process over the last 40 years. I think this is a process which I greatly encourage, because when a situation changes, the thoughts have to change as well. I want to tell the viewers and yourself that as long as Shultz is shuttling, this is good. Once he stops shuttling, we should start worrying.

[Reicher] But what if he stops shuttling because there are no results? Perhaps it can also be said that there are upcoming elections both in the United States and Israel, and that we should wait until after them.

[Weizman] This is a possibility. But even if this happens, I hope that the present developments will prepare the infrastructure for the next U.S. President and Administration, and for the new secretary of state, and the next Israeli Government—and I sincerely hope this will be a government which will further the peace issue rather than delay it, as has unfortunately been the case with the present government of which I am a member.

[Reicher] So you don't think this process is dying out, you think it will continue in future?

[Weizman] Certainly. There can be ups and downs, perhaps Mr Shultz' shuttles will become rarer. I think, however, the U.S. President, the United States, and its representatives are serious. This is a country which seeks to bring about an arrangement in the Middle East for our benefit and for theirs as well. As long as he is shuttling, we will continue hoping.

Husayn 'Real Problem'

TA070929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by David Grossman and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Mr George Shultz himself said here that the result of an absolute Israeli rejection of the territories-for-peace concept will result in an inflexible stand on the part of the Arabs. We are now witnessing this inflexibility. Do you see any connection between the two?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I do not believe that this is the problem. The real problem is King Husayn and his refusal to conduct direct negotiations, which are the main objective of the Shultz initiative. The territories-for-peace problem is not really a problem, but merely a cover-up for an irrelevant approach. The prime minister sent a letter to Secretary Shultz on 17 January, some time before the initiative was launched, in which he told the United States and, through it, the Jordanian king as well, that we are committed to the Camp David accords, which state explicitly that negotiations on the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will commence as soon as possible after the 3 years of autonomy in these territories.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, can we deduce from your remarks that King Husayn means, in fact, to foil this move, without actually saying it?

[Ben-Aharon] I am beginning to believe that this is the state of things. King Husayn is good at playing this game in which he presents the United States with a moderate stand, while actually being confined by the stands of the extremists and committed to Syria and the PLO. This attitude is now becoming obvious, from the Jordanian press and from the remarks of Zayd al-Rifa'i and King Husayn.

[Grossman] Then if he is about to refuse, why do we not improve our image in the world by making some positive proposal, thus entrapping him?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we cannot play games when Israel's security and future are at stake. We have made concessions to King Husayn over and above anything that can be expected from any country. We have done so in two spheres: a. The prime minister, of his own free will, wrote to the secretary of state saying that despite the events in the territories and despite the fact that this could bring about a radicalization and a hardening of stands, we must nevertheless pursue the peace process; b. Although we believe that direct negotiations are the only way to achieve a settlement, he agreed to that international event which was supposed to enable the parties to enter negotiations, through the formula Secretary Shultz proposed in October 1987.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, I would like your opinion on a detail emphasized by Secretary Shultz as well: As long as there is a Jordanian option—that is, as long as a dialogue with King Husayn is possible—we should seize the opportunity. Because if Israel does not say yes, it may find itself in the position of negotiations or some sort of confrontation with the PLO, Hizballah, and other similarly disagreeable elements. How do you view this assessment?

[Ben-Aharon] I think that Israel and King Husayn are to a certain extent in the same predicament. The Palestinian community is situated on both sides of the Jordan River, and we are interested in reaching a settlement with this community and with those called Jordanians who also live west of the Jordan River. I mean, anything that happens here is bound to influence the status and stability of the Jordanian Hashemite regime, as well as our own. Therefore, whether we like it or not, we both—Israel and Jordan—must arrive at some formula for coexistence.

I believe we have to negotiate with Husayn and with those Palestinians, those Arabs in Eretz Yisra'el, who are willing to reach an understanding on the question of coexistence. This can be attained only through cooperation between Israel and the Jordanian Government. If Husayn is unwilling, we will have to wait and show him that no other way will achieve the goals he himself is also interested in.

[Ben-'Ami] In one sentence, Mr Ben-Aharon, how will this process continue now? What is the next move?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we do not want the U.S. initiative to fail. There are many reasons for that, not merely the fact that the United States is involved in it, but also because the United States is the only country capable of bridging the differences. Above all, the reason is that we would truly like to promote the peace process. Now, I would like to commend, and not just to commend but to express our enormous respect and gratitude to Secretary of State Shultz for his approach, for his persistence, and for his declaration that he will not abandon the process, because the problems still exist and they are not about to disappear unless the parties decide it is time to sit down at the negotiating table.

I think, therefore, that we will continue searching for ways to reach a breakthrough, and we will continue doing so with the assistance of the United States. In his last conversation with the prime minister, Secretary Shultz implied that it might be advisable to shift the emphasis from frameworks and procedural formulas to contents, to the substance of what should be done so as to reach an understanding between us and Jordan on the issue of autonomy, for instance, or the interim period.

[Grossman] Yes, he promised to bring substance on his next visit to the region. I thank you very much, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you, and a happy Passover.

Palestinians Await Better Offer

TA061206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Text] Following orders from the PLO, Palestinians from the territories have not met with Secretary of State George Shultz, but they have been closely following his visit to Israel.

Today several prominent Palestinians expressed disappointment over Shultz' efforts, saying the only way to obtain Arab agreement for negotiations with Israel is through an international conference—their kind of international conference. Hanna Sinyurah is the editor of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR:

[Begin Sinyurah recording] I watched him on Israeli TV, talking, trying to reassure the Israeli people about the security needs. However, in the same breath he also alienated not only the Palestinians, but also the Arab world. He spoke about no return to the 1967 borders, no to a Palestinian state, no to a credible participation of the Palestinian representatives, the PLO. How can we make peace when the secretary knows that heavy concessions have to be made by the Palestinians? Who is going to make those concessions on behalf of the Palestinians? King Husayn? He will not do it. [end recording]

Earlier, former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa said he is skeptical of the kind of international opening suggested by Shultz, saying it will not fulfill the aim of most Palestinians: the end of Israeli occupation. So with Shultz gone, what are the Palestinians waiting for? Hanna Sinyurah replies: a better offer.

Survey of Shultz TV Interview

TA061125 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Charles Hoffman]

[Text] Secretary of State George Shultz very probably did influence some of the Israeli public during his television interview on Sunday night. However, most people were not influenced by what he said, but rather by their belief that he made an impact on others.

This assessment was made by Prof. Elihu Katz, a communications expert at the Hebrew University, who told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that such an effect is common in "media diplomacy," whereby foreign dignitaries talk directly to the people of another nation over the heads of their leaders.

Shultz is slated to appear tonight on the Moqed TV interview programme.

"The power of the media often lies in the myth that others are being influenced," Katz said. "The media may be influential in policy-making even when they have not actually changed anybody's mind."

He cited a survey conducted just after the broadcast by the Israel Institute of Applied Social Research, which found that almost half of those questioned thought that Shultz had some influence on others.

Most people said, however, that Shultz did not influence them, even though most of them were impressed by his sencerity. Katz said that it was typical to find that people think that others, and not they themselves, have been influenced.

About a third of those surveyed said that Shultz had attracted people to his side, while 8 per cent said that he had turned people against his position. About 80 per cent said that the Broadcasting Authority had done the right thing by responding positively to Shultz's request to speak to the Israeli public.

As for the substance of Shultz's position, 60 per cent thought that Israel should accept his plan for an international conference, while 40 per cent rejected the proposal. Katz said that this reflected the usual split in the public's attitudes to political issues such as territorial compromise.

'Very Serious Incident' Near Nabulus 6 Apr

3 Dead, 16 Wounded

TA061649 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] In a very serious incident in the village of Bayta al-Tahta near Nabulus, a girl from Elon More and two inhabitants of the village were killed. Fourteen vacationers from Elon More and two inhabitants of Bayta al-Tahta were wounded. One of the Elon More casualties is

in a serious condition and was operated on at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Another casualty who was slightly wounded is also hospitalized there.

Seven slightly wounded people are hospitalized at Tel Hashomer. Two wounded from Bayta al-Tahta are hospitalized in Nabulus.

According to reports which have reached us so far on the incident, it appears that a group about 20 teenage vacationers from Elon More got off a bus to tour in the Bayta al-Tahta area. Inhabitants from the village approached the vacationers and began to stone them. The guards fired in the air, and an incident developed in which the guards were attacked. The guards fired at the assailants, and two of the Arab inhabitants were killed. The guards' weapons were snatched away, and the assailants fired at the teenagers.

A girl vacationer was killed on the spot, and one of the guards was seriously wounded. One of the youths disappeared during the incident and was believed to have been kidnapped. He was later found. An IDF force arrived at the scene and closed off the area.

Teenagers Reportedly 'Ambushed'

TA061906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Text] It took place at about 1:30 this afternoon. A group of teenagers accompanied by two armed escorts were hiking in the Samarian hills near the Arab village of Bayta [name as heard], south of Nabulus. Suddenly the group, most of which came from the nearby Jewish settlement of Elon More, came under a hail of stones. The security guards fired in the air but the rocks kept flying. Then, according to a Jewish settlement leader, the Arabs offered a deal: Stop firing, and we will allow you to leave through the village of Bayta.

The group entered the village and was ambushed. Bayta residents dropped bricks on the heads of the youngsters. The Israelis fired, but the escorts were attacked and their weapons were seized. The teenagers were surrounded and beaten. But other Arab residents of Bayta brought some of the children to safety, and called on an Arab ambulance service. A passing television crew from CBS News followed the ambulance into Bayta and saw dead bodies and Jewish children wandering around. [passage omitted]

The CBS crew grabbed three of the teenagers and brought them out of the village and called the Army. The Army arrived and took the rest of the Jewish children to safety.

The death toll so far: one Jewish girl killed, a resident of Elon More. She was reportedly killed by a stone that struck her head. One of the armed guards was severely injured and 14 others were also wounded. They were taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv and Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Two Arab residents of Bayta were killed by live fire and at least two others were injured. At this hour Bayta is under curfew and the Army is conducting house to house searches looking for those involved in the attack.

In Elon More, only 10 minutes away from Bayta, Jewish settlement leaders are holding an emergency meeting. The residents I spoke to were shocked over the attack, and said they were looking to the government for a response.

Settlers Council Meets

TA070625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Last night settlers' leaders from Judaea and Samaria met at Elon More and adopted a string of resolutions. Other settlers demonstrated in front of the homes of Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin, and tried to set up an encampment near Bayta village; but the encampment was dispersed by the Army. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

Settlers leaders from all over Judaea and Samaria held a stormy meeting for several hours last night to discuss the attack at Bayta village and what to do. [passage omitted]

Settlement leaders are demanding that the government implement tough new measures in the territories against anyone attacking Jews. Uri Ari'el, secretary of the Council of Settlements in Judaea and Samaria, told me after the meeting that some of their demands are not new; but now, he says, they must finally be fully implemented. They include deportations of stone throwers and others, and demolition of houses of Arab attackers. The settlers also want more settlements to be established.

In addition, says Ari'el, the Council is calling on settlers not to take risks if they feel their lives are in danger, but to defend themselves. This is not a call for anarchy over the use of arms, says Ari'el, but we have been perhaps too strict in our adherence to not opening fire in many cases, and people are being hurt. Our first call, though, is on the government and Prime Minister Shamir to act more determinedly to provide security for us all, says the settlements' leader.

Shamir, Peres Hear Report

TA061806 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT Apr 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon heard a full report from Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the incident in Samaria. The prime minister said he was sure the IDF would take all necessary steps to discover those responsible for this dastardly act in order to punish them in the most severe way.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel would cut off the hands of the murderers and would not permit despicable terrorism to achieve its goals. Here are more remarks from political leaders by Oren Rosenstein:

[Rosenstein] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported to Likud ministers this evening on the grave incident in the village of Bayta in the Samaria district. Mr Shamir expressed his confidence that the IDF, which was very active in recent weeks in assuring security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, will increase its efforts to secure the safety of all inhabitants everywhere in Israel. Mr Shamir sent his condolences to the family of the dead girl and wished the wounded a speedy recovery. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Interviewed

TA061834 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by military correspondent Alon Ben-David at Bayta—recorded]

[Text] [Shomron] There was a cruel and despicable murder of a girl from Elon More in the village of Bayta al-Fawqa [placename as heard].

[Ben-David] A group of 16 children accompanied by two guards, all residents of Elon More, went on a walking tour of the area with the aim of reaching Elon More. On their way they passed near the village of Bayta al-Fawqa, where they were attacked by a group of locals who hurled stones at them. Then they decided to walk through the village, where they were attacked by locals.

[Shomron] When they were walking through the village, there was an attempt to snatch the weapons from the guards. You must remember that on the way the guards were already forced to fire several shots. I do not know whether in the air or whether they might have hit somebody. I do not know. This might explain somewhat what happened. In any case, the group was attacked in the middle of the village. In this attack a girl was killed and most of the casualties occurred here. Most were slightly wounded, while the guard was seriously wounded.

I would like to point out that while the incident was taking place, there were locals who tried to defend the children from the others, including women who hid girls on the scene inside a thicket and some other place in order to prevent the mob from harming them. Others pushed the mob away. Finally, local ambulances from Nabulus arrived at the scene, I believe after calls from among the crowd.

[Ben-David] One of the girls was captured by the locals.

[Shomron] One of the youths while running alone passed one of the houses where he was caught, tied up, and perhaps beaten a little. He managed to free himself and run away, and he also reached the military camp.

[Ben-David] In summing up the incident, one girl was killed and other hikers were wounded. Two locals were killed and others were wounded. The guards' weapons were later found inside the village. Large blood stains can still be seen in Bayta al-Fawqa which are evidence of what happened there. The village itself was put under curfew, the chief of staff said.

[Shomron] The village is under curfew. We are rounding up the men and will try to identify the assailants. We are grateful to those who helped, hid, and tried to prevent any harm to the teenagers. We have to check all this now.

[Ben-David] Lt Gen Shomron said the incident does not reflect what is happening in the territories.

[Shomron] I say that this incident occurred at a time when the situation is much calmer. It does not reflect the situation. The hikers were caught inside a village. This incident does not reflect the situation in the territories.

2 Arabs Killed First

TA070629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The security forces have been able to identify some of the Arabs who were involved in yesterday's assault on the Elon More youngsters and in the murder of Tirtza Porat. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

A blockade remains in force in the village of Bayta, and the security forces are continuing the searches. Reinforcements have been dispatched to Samaria to assist with searches and to maintain the blockade, as well as to prevent further clashes between Jews and Arabs. The IDF will continue inquiries today. Our correspondent has learned that their investigation has already revealed that the two Arab residents of Bayta were killed prior to the assault on the girl.

Rabin on IDF Measures

TA070741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by David Grossman—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Good morning, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Grossman] We have just heard some harsh words, some pointed accusations [words indistinct]

[Rabin] First of all, yesterday's incident in the village of Bayta is a very grave and tragic occurrence. A girl was vilely murdered and other children and men were wounded. It is undoubtedly a very grave incident which reflects the depth of the hatred felt by many Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It is a phenomenon which we have been confronting for the past 4 months in our attempt to restore quiet. At the same time, I would like to state here that in the course of this grave incident, there were some villagers who tried to prevent the vile assault and murder, and I believe it is thanks to these residents that a greater disaster was averted, for as you know, this excursion was not coordinated with or reported to the IDF.

[Grossman] As for the incident itself, is it clear yet what exactly happened there? Some of the victims told us that they had seen Arabs firing at them from the village roofs. Did the searches reveal firearms in the village, for instance?

[Rabin] As of now, we have no proof that firearms were used by the residents, but this is irrelevant. The test is the murder of the child, the assault, and the hatred that was expressed in these vile acts.

[Grossman] What does the defense establishment intend to do in the village of Bayta? What action will it take to warn others against committing similar acts? Will you consider deportation?

[Rabin] One must remember that for a long time we have been working at preventing such acts as much as possible. We have done this through a massive IDF presence in the territories and through detentions and arrests: We are holding some 4,600 detainees, convicted prisoners, and administrative detainees, all persons who had organized agitation or had participated in violent activities in the territories. We have witnessed a decrease, albeit slow, in the incidence of violent acts. We should remember, however, that the Army cannot be everywhere. Therefore, in the case of Bayta, a blockade has been imposed on the village. I have reason to believe that we have located the persons involved in both the murder and the violent acts against the hikers, and they be fully punished within the framework of the law.

[Grossman] The settlers are furious now. It is feared that some of them may try to stage private vendettas. How has the IDF prepared for this eventuality?

[Rabin] I would like to believe that despite the understandable pain and sorrow, the settlement leaders and the settlers themselves will realize that irresponsible behavior will not help calm the situation, but just the opposite. The job of maintaining law and order and of preventing violence should be left in the hands of the Army and the security forces. I believe that although we are facing a difficult problem, we are certain to overcome it. On the eve of our 40th Independence Day, we should remember that the country's entire history has been a constant struggle for survival and for security. We have not yet reached the day when the land will rest for 40 years—not on the northern border, sometimes not along the southern border either, unfortunately; not from the sea, and sometimes not in the air. Within the territories, too, we are faced with violence which we will be able to quell.

[Grossman] Is the establishment of more settlements the right answer to such acts, as some of the settlers said?

[Rabin] I see no connection between settlement plans in this or that part of Eretz Yisra'el and the problem of restoring law and order to the territories currently being faced by the security forces.

[Grossman] Will this murder have any effect on the uprising? Do you fear other similar incidents?

[Rabin] We should bear in mind that yesterday's incident was an expression of the accumulated hatred felt by many residents of the territories. The entrance to the village of Bayta was closed off. Had we known of the hikers' plan to arrive there, we would have forbidden it, or else furnished them with an Army escort, as we did in the case of the numerous excursions which took place in Judaea and Samaria throughout the Passover holidays. All the excursions, some of which included groups of travelers who came by bus, private car, and on foot, passed without a hitch.

[Grossman] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, thank you very much.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Peres: Incident 'Not Typical'

TA071152 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is briefly expressing here his view of the demonstration in front of his residence after the murder in the village of Bayta. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul spoke to him.

[Begin recording] [Malul] Have you anything to say to those who stood under your window last night, claiming that our readiness to enter negotiations is the reason for the murder?

[Peres] I suggest that we refrain from mixing events with politics. These people are not this land's judges. I was lawfully elected by some people, and it is them that I represent. I do not like this recurrent attempt to link unrelated matters. On the contrary, I believe that the peace process will contribute toward calming the area.

[Malul] Do you believe we are about to be confronted with another bout of escalated violence? Are we not witnessing now the murder of Jews in the territories?

[Peres] No, I think that yesterday's incident is not typical of events. It is very grave, but I would not jump to any conclusions. [end recording]

4 Houses Demolished in Bayta

TA071133 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] This morning, the IDF demolished four houses in Bayta owned by the main instigators of the bloody incident that took place in the village yesterday. The owners of the houses both provoked and participated in the physical attack on the Jewish boys and girls. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports from Bayta:

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] Four strong explosions shook the village of Bayta in Samaria this afternoon. 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, said the residents of the four houses that were blown up had played a big part in the murder which took place in the village yesterday.

[Mitzna'] So far, four houses have been demolished, but this is only part of our reaction. Through strenuous inquiries, we learned about the role played by the owners of the four houses in yesterday's incident. We have not yet apprehended the people who actually murdered the girl, although it is very possible that one of the four men or others we have apprehended played some part in it. I cannot, however, categorically tell you that those apprehended by us include anyone who can with certainty be linked to the girl's murder.

[Ben-David] The inhabitants of Bayta are still under curfew. Many of the men are still in detention and are being interrogated. The security forces are still investigating the incident and additional houses may be demolished today as well. [end recording]

'Changes' Seen in Handling Territories

TA052002 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Apr 88 p 6

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "A False Solution to a True Problem"]

[Text] Attention should be paid to nuances in remarks made by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other spokesmen in the defense establishment regarding the policy in the territories. From these nuances, it can be understood that far-reaching changes are under way. If they continue, a revolutionary change in the Israeli attitude toward the territories may soon take place.

The defense minister has recently made two statements which, when taken together, reflect a very important change in Israel's everyday activity in the West Bank. After Land Day, Rabin said that the IDF began initiating [last word published in boldface] action in the West Bank, and on another occasion he expressed his amazement at the fact that "the world" did not properly appreciate the order to stop shooting at demonstrators and start using clubs in order to save human lives. Rabin thought that "the world" would respect Israel for its consideration for human lives.

By the way, it should be noted that this statement puts a big question mark on the degree to which the defense minister values the sacredness of human life. The lives of young demonstrators are being measured, not by the ethical standards or humanitarian values to which we allegedly cling, but rather by their prominence in television reports or the severity of U.S. condemnation.

Let us get back to the point. Israel's initiative on the one hand, and the renewed use of firearms on the other, can account for the large number of casualties in the rural sector since Land Day. This is especially so in villages that "have won a reputation" of being highly problematic, such as Idnah and Al-Shuyukh in Mount Hebron and Al-Yamun in Samaria. It seems these villages earned the degree of IDF initiative they did less because of irregular activities since Land Day and more because of their deeds in the past.

The village of Al-Shuyukh "gained notoriety" through its provocative declaration of "independence." On the eve of Land Day, the village welcomed Rabin's entourage with stone barricades in front of television crews that were allowed to join his tour.

Earlier, the villagers had beaten up an innocent Israeli bus driver who lost his way and entered the village by mistake, and later they set the bus on fire. A subsequent investigation found that none of the village inhabitants attempted to rescue the driver, and farmers continued working in the fields nearby as if it did not concern them. The conclusion was that one way or the other the whole village was guilty of the driver's beating.

The villagers say that a day after Land Day a helicopter hovered over the village as if looking for an excuse. Indeed, following a slight stoning incident, the IDF opened fire, wounding one resident and shooting others who came to his assistance. According to the villagers, there were 8- and 9-year-old children and a 75-year-old woman among them. The shooting harvest: one dead and dozens wounded by a massive salvo of especially painful tear gas. The defense establishment has not even tried to deny suspicions that the entire affair was meant to settle accounts.

In a comprehensive interview with 'AL HAMISHMAR about 2 years ago, Knesset Member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer had foreseen what is now taking place. Ben-Eli'ezer had suggested then that the handling of of the territories be removed from the Defense Ministry, and that the office of the coordinator of activities in the

territories be transferred to the Prime Minister's Office. His reason was that the Palestinian problem must be handled politically and not militarily.

It seems that Ben-Eli'ezer's words still apply today. Giving the responsibility to the IDF relieves politicians of the need to provide a political answer which is the real answer to the problem of the territories. The IDF is trained for war. As the political problem worsens and nonmilitary solutions become less feasible, the IDF is increasingly tempted to start using its own methods. Herein lies the great danger of the revolutionary change in Israel's attitude toward the territories. Israel has so far attempted to meet the challenge of the uprising with police forces and economic measures, but it is despairing of attaining a drastic solution by these means. Signs of a militaristic attitude are evident, which might lead to disaster.

At this point, it is worth noting the basic difference in the way Israel handled the challenge of Land Day in the territories and within the Green Line. Aided by the media blackout, the IDF implemented a policy of deep intervention in the territories, while among Israeli Arabs the police did the opposite and stayed away from centers of activity, relying on the influence of the local leadership. The consequences speak for themselves.

Two more remarks are necessary at this point. Although he express great support for Shultz' plan, the important changes in the defense minister's policy in the West Bank undermine one of Shultz' suppositions which may be upheld by the next U.S. administration. Shultz wants to revive the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue and rehabilitate pragmatic PLO supporters who are in alliance with Jordan's supporters. The ongoing policy of detentions, however, which has been in effect for the last 10 days, is concentrating the radical leaders of the territories in one detention camp. The danger exists that the results will be similar to those of the original Ansar in Lebanon: The formation of a militant leadership that, once outside the detention camp, will block and undermine the pragmatic affiliations of PLO supporters today.

Furthermore, the IDF in the West Bank and the police in East Jerusalem are irreversibly damaging Israel's prestige among Palestinians in the territories by increasingly using militia methods, instead of acting as the enforcers of law and order in a normal country. Based on its belief that it must stand up to the instigators of internal terror, the IDF is trying to confront "young thugs" in the West Bank over shop opening hours. This has, however, proved counterproductive. IDF soldiers are becoming "young thugs" and Israel's prestige as a stable country is affected. It is increasingly being depicted as a country of Phalangists, a la Lebanon. If we add to that the vile behavior of settlers, and the lack of IDF reaction to it, the image of the State of Israel as a real state will collapse completely.

This applies as well to some aspects of the police behavior in East Jerusalem, such as the bizarre operation in which policemen dressed as settlers kidnapped the son of a Palestinian labor activist in order to warn the father. Hasan Ayub, the father, was eventually arrested a few days later. The child, a 14-year-old minor, was beaten and frightened by the policemen and later released away from his home.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Casualty Toll 185

TA061300 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 6 Apr 88 p 10

[Report by 'Anat Saragosti]

[Text] The number of Palestinians killed since the beginning of the uprising in the territories is not an objective figure; it varies according to the origin of the information.

The IDF calls the Palestinians "locals" and reports a casualty toll as of last Sunday night of 113, all shot by soldiers.

An additional 20 deaths occurred under unclear circumstances, and are all under investigation.

The IDF count does not include Palestinians killed by Israeli citizens (settlers), as these cases are supposedly being investigated by the Investigation Branch of the Military Police.

Palestinian sources categorize the casualties according to causes of death. Their total of Palestinians killed since the uprising began stands at 185 as of last Sunday night, according to the following breakdown:

130 persons killed by IDF and settlers' fire.

34 persons dead from gas.

11 persons dead from beatings and burns.

10 persons who died under unclear circumstances (including the 4 killed in the 8 December 1987 road accident and 4 others killed in a road accident 10 days ago.)

Nabulus Buildings Seized

TA060614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The Civil Administration has temporarily expropriated Arab residential buildings east of Nabulus for Army maneuvers. The takeover is for 10 days only. Reporter Arye Gus says six families live in the area. They will be provided with tents during the day, and will be allowed to return home at night during the period of the exercises.

Taxi Attacked in Abu Ghaush

TA060721 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] A passenger in a cab passing through Abu Ghaush, west of the capital, was slightly injured last night when stones smashed the cab's windows, the Jerusalem police spokesman said. In East Jerusalem, Arab youths hurled stones and overturned trashbins to block Sultan Sulayman Street and a road in Silwan, south of the Dung Gate.

5 Galilee Children Held

TA061213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The police this morning detained five children in the village of Bi'na in the Galilee. The youngsters, all about 12 years old, are thought to have thrown stones at cars traveling along the nearby Karmi'el-Gilon road. One motorist, whose windscreen was smashed, called the police who caught the children. The police say they admit to their deed.

1 Wounded in Nabulus

TA061753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Here is a report we have just received: In the Nabulus casbah, an attempt was made to snatch an officer's weapon. The officer resisted, fired at the assailant, and wounded him. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

2 Wounded in Gaza

TA062011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Two youths were wounded in Gaza by IDF soldiers' fire in a mass disturbance in the Jabalyah Refugee Camp. A 21-year-old woman was wounded in her right eye by a rubber bullet and a 16-year-old boy was wounded by a bullet in his knee. They were hospitalized in the Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. Our correspondent was told that the soldiers opened live fire only after they used rubber bullets and tear gas.

Soldier Thwarts Attackers

TA070541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In the north last night, a soldier fought back six unidentified attackers in his Army base in the central Golan Heights. The six struck the soldier and tried to grab away his weapon, but the soldier directed the weapon toward the attackers and they fled in their car. The police have opened an investigation.

Schools Remain Closed

TA071027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration has extended by 1 month the regulation ordering the closure of schools in Judaea and Samaria. The present closure order will expire tomorrow.

Arab Notables' Cars Burned

TA071037 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Two cars belonging to Arab notables were set on fire last night in the Judaea District. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that one of the cars, which was burned by unknown persons, belonged to former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah. Attempts were made to burn other cars and a car belonging to a communist activist was burned in Ramallah.

U.S. Secretary of State Returns to Amman

Arrives From Cairo 6 Apr

JN061817 Amman Domestic Service in Amman 1806 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Amman from Cairo this evening. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Earlier today, Shultz held talks with President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the U.S. ideas pertaining to bringing about peace in the Middle East.

Received by King

JN070604 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] His majesty the king received at the house of the Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i last night U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with his delegation.

At the meeting, Mr Shultz gave a briefing on the outcome of his shuttle in the region. The two sides held discussions on the proposed international Middle East peace conference and requirements of peace.

Attending the talks were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the foreign minister.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy, a number of State Department officials, and the American ambassador were also present at the meeting.

Given Document on Peace Plan

JN071144 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Our correspondent in Amman, Randa Habib, reported a short while ago that King Husayn of Jordan presented to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last night a written document that includes three basic principles which should be included in the U.S. peace plan.

These principles are: the convening of an effective international conference on the Middle East, Palestinian participation in the conference through the PLO, and complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied in the June 1967 war and the exchange of territory for peace.

Future U.S. Role Sentenced to 'Certain Failure'

JN070736 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Apr 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Israeli Extremism Is Leading U.S. Diplomacy"]

[Text] After U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has been informed of the stands of the various parties on his peace initiative, and as his Middle East tour approaches its projected end today, the big fact which the U.S. secretary of state will leave behind in the area will from now on be embodied in the consensus that there should be no reliance on any mediation role which the United States may carry out in the future as long as it is so biased toward Israel.

The U.S. secretary of state, who began his first tour with optimism and who appeared for two continuous months to be wanting to win over Yitzhaq Shamir and please the Israelis, has switched now to emboldening the Zionist extremists and is encouraging them to reject his proposals which, in the first place, were worded in a manner that does not meet the most elementary Arab demands represented by the demand for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory.

The new aircraft deal, which Shultz announced at the worst possible time, can only mean he is rewarding and encouraging his Israeli allies who have won such a big U.S. prize for the flexibility and cooperation they displayed toward the initiative which, historically, will be associated with George Shultz' name.

Israel's greatest friend will thus end his diplomatic record, which abounds with failure in the region, with a failure that is the biggest and has the profoundest effect on long-term U.S. interests in the Middle East.

The U.S. secretary of state, who throughout the various stages of his tour has showered us with statements that are not fitting for a diplomatic mediator of Shultz' stature, has allowed the extremism of Shamir and Rabin to easily destroy his initiative without consideration for the apprehensions or reactions of the other side in a protracted conflict, and thus is like one who has sentenced any U.S. role in the future to certain failure and who has deprived U.S. policy in the region of what remains of its credibility among all the Arabs.

In light of the above, the lessons learned from Shultz' shuttle trips and the accompanying U.S. statements and stands, which are totally incompatible with the mediation role, will be well absorbed by the Arab side which from now on will not rely on any U.S. pledges and will not allow such a theatrical to occur again—a theatrical in which the mediator declares his bias beforehand, gives arms, support, and assistance to one side, and denies to the other side its most elementary rights and then claims that he is working for peace. There is no escape from seeking to achieve such a peace in accordance with totally different rules.

AL-RA'Y: Shultz Plan Not 'Riddle,' But 'Trap'

JN070855 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Apr 88 p 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Arab Conception of Peace Is Clear and Firm"]

[Text] With all his strength, Shultz is trying to acquit Shamir of his repeated rejection of the U.S. initiative. And with all his strength, Shultz is trying to emphasize that this initiative is still alive, continuing, and is met with Arab disagreements, not an Israeli rejection of it.

Shultz, moreover, gives signals to suggest that Jordan's concept of the bases of peace is different from the comprehensive Arab concept of these bases. Therefore, it is quite evident Shultz' initiative is not a riddle but a trap moving between the Arab capitals.

As a reminder we say: If Shamir's open rejection is not meaningful, how does Shultz interpret it? And if this rejection does not mean the initiative is no longer useful, then why does the U.S. secretary of state insist that it is still exists and is continuing, since the U.S. Administration intends to proceed with its support for Israel regadless of its stands and practices?

It should also be recalled that the Arab conception of the bases of peace is essentially balanced and clear and there is no room to attribute disagreements to this conception.

It is innocent of these disagreement. It is certain that Amman, Damascus, Cairo, the PLO, and all Arabs agree that the essence of real peace is a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their rights on their soil.

They also agree that a fully authorized international conference is the only field for the peace process. In light of this fact, of which Shultz and others are aware, the picture the U.S. secretary of state is trying to draw of alleged Arab disagreements over the bases of peace is unrealistic.

It should also be emphasized that the constants of the Jordanian stand regarding the elements and requirements of a comprehensive, peaceful settlement through an international Middle East peace conference are drawn from Arab consensus.

These were repeated to Shultz by His Majesty King Husayn. Jordan is very proud of its commitment to the Arab consensus. Jordan was a leader in laying the foundations of this consensus at the accord and reconciliation summit. All beautification and decoration attempts will not tempt anyone to abandon this pan-Arab commitment.

In light of Shultz' statements in a number of Arab capitals, all signs indicate that he wants to throw the ball into the Arab goal. For this purpose, he was not embarrassed to deny Israel's open rejection of the initiative, nor was he embarrassed to call on the Arabs to contribute to aborting Security Council Resolution 242 by accepting negotiations on the resolution not on its implementation.

He was also not embarrassed to call on the Arabs to accept the fact that the U.S. stand retreated on its rejection of the annexation of Arab Jerusalem to Israel and moved to recognizing this de factor annexation.

Despite the impossible things Shultz presented to the Arabs, they are quite patient and persistent. They reiterated to him the indispensable bases for a just and comprehensive peace in the region, stressing that these bases cannot be deflected or abandoned if a real peace is to be achieved in the region.

It seems this patience and persistence is the reason for the suffering expressed by Shultz, as though he is anxious for a quick Arab "no" so he can happily go back to Washington claiming the Arabs are the party saying no to peace and ignoring the fact that for a long time the Arabs have told him they desire a real peace.

They have also told him that aborting Security Council Resolution 242, giving in to Israeli expansion, stripping the international peace conference of its authority, and denying the rights of the Palestinian people are all destructive factors that can lead to no peace.

The Arabs are called upon to be alert and to adhere to their dignity, pride, and the future of their generations. Their adherence to their common conception of the hoped-for peace should be consolidated.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in South Continues

Ceasefire Agreement Proposed

NC061624 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] It was announced this afternoon that a cease-fire agreement has been reached between the Amal movement and Hizballah in the south as a result of mediation by Al-Nabatiyah Imam Shaykh 'Abd al-Husayn Sadiq.

The cease-fire agreement went into effect as of 1500 hours.

According to the AKHBAR LUBNAN news agency, the agreement provides for the following:

1. An end to the fighting.

2. The surrender of personal weapons.

3. A ban on armed party offices, except those belonging to the Amal Movement.

4. A ban on the visible carrying of arms, except by the Amal Movement security organs charged with maintaining security and ending the fighting. Hizballah members in Al-Nabatiyah will not be chased or attacked.

5. The handing over of the elements known to have attacked the Haruf checkpoint, to His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Husayn Sadiq, who will issue the appropriate shari'a verdict.

Hizballah Rejects Amal Terms

NC061646 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] What is the latest news from the south? Here is our colleague Johnny Munayyir with his report.

[Begin recording] The latest security reports from the south indicate that the battles between Amal and Hizballah abated a short while ago in response to a request from the Lebanese Red Cross, so that casualties could be removed from the streets of Al-Nabatiyah.

In an attack launched this afternoon, Amal succeeded in seizing control of additional positions. However, it is reported that firing continues in Hayy al-Saray in Al-Nabatiyah.

Amal Movement sources in Al-Siddiqin reported that clashes are continuing and that Amal fighters attempted to advance toward the Shi'ite educational center after coming under fire. Hizballah asked for a halt to the attack after gathering women in the center. Security sources said two persons were killed, one of them from Amal, and three others were injured.

In Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah near Al-Nabatiyah, fighting involving the use of automatic weapons has continued, although Amal declared yesterday that it was in control of the area.

Reports received this afternoon say that the two sides are launching attacks and counterattacks in Al-Nabatiyah. They add that Amal occupies 40 percent of the area, and Hizballah 60 percent.

The reports also say that Amal launched a large-scale attack this afternoon and succeeded in taking control of Hayy al-Rahibat and half of the town's market.

Lebanese Red Cross sources confirmed that more than 30 persons on both sides have been injured, but the intense gunfire prevented the evacuation of the casualties.

According to an Amal estimate of its losses in the battles since yesterday, 40 of its members were injured and taken to hospitals in the south and Beirut, and 7 were killed.

Sources in the south have reported that the Amal Movement has laid down the following conditions for a permanent end to the raids:

1. A return to former positions.

2. The closure of all armed party offices, except those of Amal.

3. The handing over of weapons or their removal from the south.

4. Recognition that the Amal Movement alone has the right to maintain security in the south.

Hizballah sources have said that these are impossible conditions. [end recording]

Fighting Continues

NC061810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports from the south, a guarded calm has been prevailing in Al-Nabatiyah since 1530 this afternoon when the Amal movement took full control of the city.

Tension, however, continues in the villages of Jibshit, Zawtar Ash Sharqiyah, and 'Arab Salim. The reports add that the Amal forces confiscated quantities of weapons from Hizballah members leaving Al-Nabatiyah.

According to preliminary reports, during today's clashes in Al-Nabatiyah 'Ali Zaynun, and Sa'id Zahri, a person of the Al-'Arab tribe was killed and several persons were injured. [passage omitted]

It was announced this afternoon that a ceasefire agreement had been reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the south as a result of mediation by Al-Nabatiyah Imam Shaykh 'Abd al-Husayn Sadiq. [passage omitted]

However, according to subsequent reports, no such agreement has been reached, although consultations are being held to deal with the situation. The same reports say that fighting is continuing in Hayy al-Saray in Al-Nabatiyah, while the situation in Siddiqin has been resolved in favor of the Amal movement.

Amal Said To Initiate Fighting

NC061817 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] A statement issued by Hizballah this afternoon accuses what it describes as groups of deviationists and agents who have infiltrated the Amal Movement, of initiating the clashes and internal battles in Al-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages.

Hizballah said that its efforts to calm down the situation and restore the status quo have, since this morning, been met with violent artillery, machine gun, and rocket shelling of Al-Nabatiyah, followed by a wide-scale military attack.

Hizballah added: The shelling spread to the villages of Jibshit and Sharqiyah in an attempt, based on a deliberate plan, to burn our resisting people in Jabal 'Amil with the fire of new strife. The purpose of this, the statement said, is to ensure the success of the American settlement plan, which seeks to guarantee the security of the enemy.

VOL Notes False Report on Storming of Plane

NC062143 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2120 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Iranian security forces have stormed the hijacked Kuwaiti plane at Mashhad Airport in Iran and at least one Kuwaiti was killed in the operation.

This was reported by the American CNN television network at 2030, attributing the information to an Iranian source. The Voice of Lebanon radio carried the CNN report at 2045 and 2115 today.

The report was picked up in the Al-Biqa'-Ba'labakk area. Since it was ascertained that CNN was the source of the information, we carried the report, attributing it to CNN, at 2215. [time as received]

However, at 2230 [as received], the CNN network denied the report it had carried about the Iranian storming of the Kuwaiti plane and said the Iranians are continuing to deal with the issue in a peaceful manner. It attributed the source of the report to a Lebanese Christian radio station.

Birri Says French Hostages May Be Free by 20 Apr

NC070406 Paris AFP in English 0359 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 7 (AFP)—Three French hostages held for over three years in Lebanon could be freed before April 20, according to Nabih Birri, leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal movement.

Mr. Birri and Amal are not known to have influence over the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad holding the hostages, made his statement Wednesday at a meeting here with Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association. [sentence as received]

His statement followed the return to Paris Wednesday of a French envoy, Jean-Charles Marchiani, who spent four days in Syria and who reportedly travelled to the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' Valley in Lebanon, a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Moslem fundamentalist Hizballah movement.

Another pro-Syrian source here said on Wednesday that "until now the situation had been deadlocked," but that negotiations were now making headway and would lead to a "happy outcome."

French diplomats Marcel Carton, 64, and Marcel Fontaine, 45, and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, 43, are the three remaining French hostages in Lebanon.

Observers here said however that a possible hostage release could still be jeopardized if fighting between Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizballah spread from southern Lebanon to Beirut and the Al-Biqa' Valley, or if the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, commandeered to Iran, ended badly for the hostage-takers.

Like Islamic Jihad, the Arab-speaking hijackers were demanding the release of 17 people jailed in Kuwait for terrorist acts.

Afghanistan

Najibullah, Others Depart for USSR 6 Apr

Najibullah Departs

LD061608 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, left today, 6 April, for the Soviet Union for a short meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Esteemed Najibullah was seen off at Kabul Airport by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister; members of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat and Politburo; Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the National Front Central Council; deputy prime ministers; some members of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan; generals and officers of the Armed Forces, leadership delegations of political organizations; chairmen of social organizations; N.G. Yegorychev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul; and ambassadors and charge d'affaires of friendly countries in Kabul. A number of pioneers presented flowers to esteemed Najibullah who stood near the plane.

Shevardnadze Departs

LD061918 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, left today for his country after a working visit.

He was seen off at Kabul Airport by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat and Politburo; N.G. Yegoryehev, USSR ambassador and extraordinary representative in Kabul; and ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the friendly countries in Kabul.

Meets Gorbachev in Tashkent

LD070757 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0625 GMT 7 Apr 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Hello comrades. As we have already reported, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev arrived in Tashkent on 6 April. A meeting was held today in Tashkent. [Video shows views of Tashkent, as unidentified reporter speaks]

[Reporter] At this moment, a meeting is underway between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. There will be a report on this a little later. The cassette with a video recording of the start of the meeting is currently being delivered to the television center. But for the time being, here is a report on yesterday evening's events. [video shows aircraft taxiing on runway].

The general secretary arrived in Tashkent at 2050. [video shows welcoming group of officials approaching the plane, including (?Shevardnadze) on the left of the screen, then Gorbachev descending aircraft steps followed by Raisa Gorbachev and others] He was met by Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, other party leaders, and members of the government of the republic. [video shows Gorbachev shaking hand of (?Nishanov) and others, including Shevardnadze, whom he warmly greets] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze arrived in Tashkent yesterday from Kabul with President Najibullah. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] A meeting was held in Tashkent today between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan. [video shows Gorbachev meeting and speaking with Najibullah, brief shot of the flags of the USSR, the Uzbek SSR, and Afghanistan. Then of Najibullah, Gorbachev, and Shevardnadze taking their seats at an oval negotiating table with their delegations] During the conversation, questions of mutual interest were discussed. [video shows Gorbachev arranging papers and speaking through an interpreter]

[Begin Gorbachev recording] I think that there is a particular feature of our present meetings and conversations. Attention has to be... [end recording]

[Announcer, interrupting] Comrade Shevardnadze took part in the meeting. [video shows Shevardnadze and Gorbachev, then Najibullah, smiling following the brief exchange of words]

Joint Statement Adopted

LD070902 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 1

["M.S. Gorbachev Meeting With Najibullah"—TASS report]

[Text] Tashkent April 7 TASS—A meeting held here today between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Najibullah opened a new stage in Soviet-Afghan relations. The meeting passed in a friendly and warm atmosphere. A joint statement was adopted as a result of the meeting.

Joint Soviet-Afghan Statement

A meeting between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Najibullah was held in Tashkent on April 7, 1988. Taking part in it were:

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze and the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Rafik Nishanov.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah exchanged views on the key moments of the international situation and studied in detail topical questions directly concerning the interests of their countries.

They noted that the policy of national reconciliation consistently pursued by the Afghan leadership, its constructive position on questions of the political settlement is the only correct line that accords with the interests of the Afghan people, all of its neighbours and the interests of the entire international community.

The sides confirmed loyalty to the old tradition of building relations between the USSR and Afghanistan on principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual advantage and non-interference in internal affairs.

As a result of the meeting Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah arrived at a common view on the following.

First. The Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan will act in accordance with the statements published on 8 February 1988. These statements imparted a new impulse to the process of the political settlement of the most complex regional conflict and made it possible to place negotiations on the plane of a practical solution.

Second. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the president of Afghanistan believe that the last obstacles to concluding the agreements have now been removed thanks to constructive cooperation of all who are involved in the settlement, and favour their immediate signing.

Both sides duly assess the role of the UN secretary-general and his personal representative Diego Cordovez.

The Afghan president welcomes the readiness of the Soviet Union and the United States to act as guarantors of the Geneva Accords.

Third. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan reaffirm that in the event of the conclusion within the shortest period of the said agreements, the Afghanistan-USSR understanding that the Soviet troops will be withdrawn within the period fixed by these agreements, starting from 15 May 1988, will remain in force.

Fourth. The policy of national reconciliation makes it possible to settle the situation around Afghanistan, end the war and fratricide, establish peace throughout the country's territory and form a coalition government with the participation of all forces representing Afghan society, including those who are currently opposed to one another.

Fifth. The final status of their country among other states will be determined by the Afghans themselves and nobody but them. The Soviet Union reaffirms its support for President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent, nonaligned and neutral state. It proceeds from the premise that the territory of that country or any of its part will never be used for purposes hostile to its neighbours with regard to which Afghanistan will contribute a policy of goodneighborly relations and cooperation.

This equally applies to the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Soviet side backs the Afghan president's statement to the effect that Afghanistan's internal structure will rest on a multi-party system in the political field and on a multi-sectoral basis in the economic sphere.

Sixth. It is of key importance for implementing the policy of national reconciliation to create satisfactory conditions for the return of Afghan refugees who are temporarily in the territory of Pakistan and other countries and grant them rights on an equal basis with all citizens of the country. The Soviet Union will extend assistance to the Afghan Government in creating such conditions.

Seventh. The Soviet Union, relying on relations of traditional and historical friendship, expresses the readiness to cooperate with Afghanistan at high level in order to restore the economy and facilitate the economic and social development of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Eighth. The general secretary and the president call on other states to continue a policy of establishing peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan and respect the Geneva Accords. This would set a good and encouraging example for resolving other regional conflicts.

Mikhail Gorbachev gave a luncheon in honour of Najibullah, which was held in a friendly, comradely atmosphere.

Najibullah Departs for Home

LD070954 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, left Tashkent for Kabul today after meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev,

general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He was seen off at the airport by Comrades Shevardnadze, Nishanov and other officials.

Najibullah Returns 7 Apr

LD071610 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who went to the Soviet Union yesterday, 6 April, for a short meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, returned to the country this evening.

Present at Kabul International Airport to welcome Esteemed Najibullah were Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the National Front Central Council; deputy prime ministers; members of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan; officers and generals of the Armed Forces; leaders of political organizations; heads of social organizations; N.G. Yegorychev, USSR ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary; and ambassadors and charges d'affaires of friendly countries in Kabul.

Economic Talks With USSR End; Protocol Signed

LD061700 Moscow TASS in English 1637 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 6 TASS—The standing inter-governmental Soviet-Afghan Commission for Economic Cooperation held its 8th session here from April 4 to 6.

The sides examined the present state of an prospects for economic, technological and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Specific measures were carried out since the 7th session, making it possible to speed up work in major areas and at principal cooperation projects.

The sides noted with satisfaction that Soviet-Afghan economic relations were characterised not only by breadth, but also by the innovative approach and the search for new forms and directions.

This search is being conducted with due account for the restructuring of the Soviet Union's foreign economic activity and the policy of national reconciliation conducted by the leadership of Afghanistan.

It was noted in this connection that direct ties between regions and republics of the Soviet Union and all provinces of Afghanistan were being developed.

This new form of cooperation is gradually expanding its share in the overall complex of economic ties between the two countries and has good prospects.

Special attention was given to the further development of cooperation with the private sector. This direction is acquiring special significance and meets the goals of the Afghan Government's economic policy aimed at developing all economic sectors.

With a view to further perfecting trade and economic cooperation, the sides proceeded from the need for enhancing efficiency in the use of Soviet economic assistance in keeping with specific conditions and real opportunities of the republic of Afghanistan.

Delegation members had working meetings with the leadership of corresponding ministries and departments of Afghanistan.

The head of the Soviet delegation was received in Kabul by President Najibullah and Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

A number of inter-governmental documents related to further cooperation in operating facilities built with Soviet aid, assistance in the field of public health, education, personnel training, development of information and communications means and others were signed.

A protocol was signed on the completion of the session marked by an atmosphere of friendship and mutual assistance.

The Soviet delegation was headed by Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Agro-Industrial Committee of the USSR, the Afghan delegation was led by Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of Afghanistan.

The Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, Nikolay Yegorychev, and deputy prime ministers of Afghanistan Mahbubullah Koshani and Muhammad Hakim took part in the work of the inter-governmental commission.

Najibullah Sends UN Message on Geneva Talks

LD062226 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar from President Najibullah; date not specified—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:

Before anything else, allow me to offer my good wishes to you and to wish you more and more success in solving the problems of our planet, our common home. I would like to draw your attention once again to the situation which has developed in the Geneva talks, which are conducted through your special representative, between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Talks on the settlement of one the most difficult regional disputes are continuing and

will undoubtedly untangle this dispute since the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan are close. This would have an effective impact on the prospects for creating a reliable and stable peace, and on the international situation as a whole as an aspect of peace and security.

The Afghan side is seeking to narrow stands and alleviate obstacles in the Geneva talks with good intentions and honest efforts. By declaring the national reconciliation policy, Afghanistan has taken fundamental steps toward the prospect of normalizing the situation, alleviating accummulated problems through political means, and searching for rational compromises. As a consequence of adopting such a stand, three out of four documents—which include all aspects of mutual agreements—are almost complete and final, and are ready to be signed.

For a long time Pakistan has insisted that the political normalization of the situation inside and around Afghanistan merely depends on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Therefore, it used UN General Assembly resolutions to try to link the signing of the agreements to drawing up a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

With the statements made on 8 February by the Afghan president and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, a complete stop was put to the last excuse of the Pakistani Government. In other words, an acceptable timetable for the withdrawal of the limited Soviet troop contingents was agreed to by both sides. In this way, the way was opened to achieve a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and to sign documents in accordance with UN resolutions.

The statements by the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union strengthened the hopes of peace-loving mankind about the UN efforts in Geneva and became a source of confidence for the international community.

However, the irresponsible position taken by the Pakistani Government showed that it is not ready to sincerely travel this path and to display good will, political resoluteness, sincerity, and realism. For example, it proposed the inclusion of new conditions in the agreement, among which is a discussion of the Duran line as the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is obvious that the conditions proposed are completely outside the framework of articles included in UN Resolution 42, dated October 1987 concerning Afghanistan and similar other UN resolutions.

It is worthwhile to point out that Pakistan not only voted on the aforementioned resolution, but was its main initiator and author. Please note that the resolutions which have been put forward by Pakistan since 1980 mainly demanded the preservation of the position of Afghanistan as a nonaligned and neutral country, an end to foreign interference, recognition of the right of the Afghan people to choose a government of their own choice without foreign interference and coercion, the return of foreign forces, and the honorable return of Afghan refugees to their country.

In light of the aforementioned articles, measures have been taken at other international gatherings, in particular at the conference of nonaligned heads of state and government in Harare and at the Islamic leaders conference on 28 January 1987 concerning the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. However, Pakistan is trying, under the guise of so-called normalization of the situation around Afghanistan, to impose issues which have not been included in the UN General Assembly resolutions and on the agenda of the Geneva talks. With such a stand, how can Pakistan claim to be a loyal UN member, or to observe the resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement, or to be an active member of the ICO?

What happened is that Pakistan's demands for the resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the Nonaligned Movement Conference, and the conference of Islamic countries were suddenly forgotten and the votes of 123 countries—including that of Pakistan itself—in the United Nations concerning Afghanistan were overlooked by Pakistan.

Finally, it came to light that throughout the Geneva talks Pakistan, under the guise of so-called implementation of UN General Assembly (?resolutions) on regional peace and security and peacefully settling the situation around Afghanistan, has been intervening in the internal affairs of its neighbors solely for achieving its own aims. As a result of this, the blood of thousands of Afghans has been spilled and the regional situation has been aggravated. There is no doubt now that the ruling military circles in Pakistan, contrary to the interests of the people of Pakistan and the region, have listened to the voices of extremist forces and reactionary and imperialist circles, which want to continue the war, to intensify the imposed war and maintain tension in the region.

If such an incorrect attitude by Pakistan continues during the peace talks, then obviously the interests of peace and the removal of tension in the region—despite efforts by the United Nations and yourself, the secretary general of this credible international organization—will be trampled and the authority of this formidable international organization will be damaged. The Afghan Government is serious about carrying out the national reconciliation policy, the policy for restoring peace and security in the country, which is clearly in conformity with the spirit of the UN resolutions on Afghanistan.

The Afghan Government is making and will make every effort to ensure the success of the Geneva talks, the immediate end to bloodshed, and the repatriation of Afghans to the bosom of their families.

The Republic of Afghanistan has resolutely decided to be the best example in assisting international interests under UN sponsorship to resolve the situation around Afghanistan and other problems of world peace; it wants to prove in practice its complete faithfulness to the UN Charter.

On the basis of this noble objective, we ask you, Your Excellency, Mr UN Secretary General, to use your personal credibility and the credibility of the United Nations—led by yourself—for exerting a positive influence on the Geneva talks and bringing a serious dynamism to these talks which will assist not only the Afghan problem but the cause of consolidating international security in the region, where many acute problems and conflicts are concentrated, on the basis of Resolution 42, Article 7 dated 18 October 1987 which says:

The secretary general is asked to continue his efforts in order to advance a political solution in accordance with existing resolutions and obtaining necessary guarantees for not using force or the threat to use force against political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of all neighboring countries on the basis of reciprocal guarantees and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other and in complete respect for the UN Charter.

With due respect,

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Refugees Seek Direct Talks With USSR

BK070037 Hong Kong AFP in English 2026 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 6 (AFP)—About 10,000 Afghan refugees at a rally Wednesday rejected the Geneva talks between Islamabad and Kabul, and demanded direct negotiations between the mujahidin resistance and Moscow, the pro-rebel AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said.

The rally was held in Kacha Garrih Camp near Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan, AIP said.

It agreed on support for a resolution prepared by Afghan refugee chiefs in Pakistan demanding the "unconditional" withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the agency said.

The resolution said: "As the Afghan mujahidin and refugees have paid a high price, therefore the negotiations should be between the mujahidin and Soviet Union," AIP said.

"Pakistan and any other Islamic country do not represent the Afghan mujahidin, therefore the signing of an accord in Geneva would not prevent us from continuing our jihad (holy war)," it added.

Mujahidin Reportedly Intensify Attacks

BK051316 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 5 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have intensified attacks on Soviet and Kabul troop positions in Afghanistan as Soviet troops begin pulling back from frontline areas, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The rebels took Ghorband town in Parvan Province north of Kabul last week, after seizing the last government base in the area and closing the road linking neighboring Bamiyan Province to the strategic Salang Highway, they said.

The government lost 60 troops, including 30 new conscripts, in the fighting, the diplomats said. Soviet and rebel losses were not known.

Soviet forces have pulled back from the rebel stronghold of Panjsher in Parvan to Anaba and Tape Surkh further south, diplomats said, adding that Panjsher's legendary Commander Ahmed Shah Masoud had been reported in the area.

Masoud last week rejected Afghan President Najibullah's invitation to participate in nationwide parliamentary elections beginning Tuesday.

Soviet troops were also preparing to withdraw from positions in Paktia Province bordering Pakistan, diplomats said, adding that responsibility for bases in neighboring Logar Province had already been transferred to Kabul.

The diplomats said Soviet troops had begun to pull back from frontline positions ahead of an expected withdrawal from the country. Moscow has said the pull-out could begin in May.

In Paktia Province the mujahidin now have unchallenged positions in the Satu Kandau Gorge on the Gardez-Khowst Highway and in areas of the newly-created Sare Pul Province, the diplomats said.

Soviet troops have suffered heavy casualties in renewed clashes with rebels in Ghazni, Herat, Baghlan, Farah and Helmand Provinces, they said.

Diplomats said the mujahidin's green flags were flying in the back streets of Qandahar, Afghanistan's second biggest city, and in the nearby southern district centre of Panjwai, which was captured by rebels late last month.

Security on the Kabul-Qandahar Highway has deteriorated and the government has been forced to air-lift 300 to 400 troops to the area, they said.

Diplomats said fighting had intensified in Vardak Province west of Kabul, while nightly rebel rocket attacks on Jalalabad city and airport east of the capital had destroyed two helicopter gunships last week.

The government has deployed troops south of the capital amid increasing mujahidin pressure, diplomats said, adding that Kabul had this month received large quantities of Soviet arms and ammunition.

Four car-bomb explosions rocked Kabul last week, resulting in a step-up in vehicle checks, particularly on taxis which are no longer allowed in the complex housing Soviet officials and regime and party cadres, diplomats said.

Konarha Shelled

LD061755 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] BAKHTAR reports from Asadabad City that the inhabitants of Konarha Province who had registered as voters today voted for their desired candidates in three constituencies.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that since the start of election, despite the fact that the peace-loving people of Konarha are going to the polls with enthusiasm, extremists have been shelling the residential area of Konarha Province. There was also a recurrence of the extremists' inhuman action in some areas in this province today. As a result of the extremists' action to date, a number of houses have been destroyed in this province; seven persons, including women and children were injured, and three innocent inhabitants were martryed.

Soviet Coverage of Shevardnadze Visit

For additional Soviet press and radio coverage of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Kabul and talks there with Najibullah and other Afghan officials, see the Near East & South Asia section of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT of 4 April 1988 and subsequent issues.

Bangladesh

Opposition Announces Future Plans, Strike

BK070029 Hong Kong AFP in English 1920 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Dacca, April 6 (AFP)—Bangladesh's major opposition groups announced plans Wednesday to revive their anti-government campaign in a bid to force the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

A spokesman for the liaison committee of the country's three main opposition alliances said the programme would include a nationwide dawn-to-dusk general strike to coincide with the opening session of the new Parliament, elected March 3.

Mr. Ershad is yet to formally call the new Parliament to session but he said this weekend that it would meet during April.

The campaign would also include the staging of anti-government demonstrations in district towns on Monday, followed by protest rallies in the capital on Tuesday, the spokesman said, reading from a statement.

The statement comes two days before the expiry of an opposition deadline for Mr. Ershad to step down.

The opposition, headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, has described last month's parliamentary elections as "fraudulent and voterless polling."

Most opposition parties boycotted the polls, which saw the ruling Jatiya Party win more than 250 seats in the 300-seat parliament.

India

Parliament Demands Discussion on Carlucci Visit

BK070900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, several members demanded a discussion on the visit of the U.S. defense secretary to the country.

The issue was raised during the zero hour by Professor K.K. Tiwari, Congress-I. He said the statement made by Mr Carlucci at his press conference in New Delhi yesterday that the U.S. arms supply to Pakistan would continue as before is an affront to the security of India.

Mr Tiwari said that Mr Carlucci's silence about Pakistan acquiring nuclear capability is also a matter of concern.

The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, told the members that he would look into it.

Minister Denies LTTE Paid To Accept Accord

BK061259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The government today categorically refuted in the Lok Sabha newspaper reports that certain payments were made to the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, to make him accept the India-Sri Lanka agreement.

In a statement, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, clarified that during talks in Delhi Mr Prabhakaran accepted the India-Sri Lanka agreement but expressed certain reservations.

These pertained to the personal safety of the LTTE leadership, rehabilitation of its cadres, financial assistance for the maintenance of these cadres pending rehabilitation, and a leading role for the LTTE in interim administration.

The Indian Government took these concerns fully into account. One of the main problems mentioned by Mr Prabhakaran concerned the collection of funds by LTTE through taxes levied on the people of Jaffna and some other areas of the northern and eastern provinces.

According to him these were being used to provide allowances for the upkeep of their cadres. Mr Prabhakaran requested that till the interim administration came into being and his cadres were employed, he should be given the financial means to support them.

Mr Natwar Singh told the house that in order to help the LTTE make the difficult transition from militancy to peaceful democratic politics, it was agreed to extend some interim financial relief to it on the understanding that such relief would only cover the period till the rehabilitation of its cadres.

Soviet Communique on Natwar Singh Visit Cited

BK060850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union feel that favorable conditions have been created in Afghanistan and in Kampuchea for a comprehensive political settlement to enable the people there to decide their own political future without outside interference.

A Soviet communique from Moscow said the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and the Soviet leadership stressed the importance of interaction between New Delhi and Moscow for strengthening peace in the world.

Terrorists Kill 4, Injure 1 in Amritsar 6 Apr

BK070320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, four persons were killed and one injured by terrorists in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, a police constable was gunned down in village Udhonangal.

In the second incident, a farmer was shot dead in his house and his son received serious bullet injuries in village Rasulpur. The police recovered two bullet-ridden bodies from two places in the district.

Anti-Terrorist Cell Set Up in Uttar Pradesh

BK061608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] A special anti-terrorist cell has been created in Uttar Pradesh to check terrorist activities in the border districts of the state. Sophisticated arms are being provided to the police forces. The chief minister, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh, said this in the [state] assembly today.

States Asked To Act Against Left-Wing Extremists

BK060856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The Center has asked the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh governments to take coordinated action against the left-wing extremist activities. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, told the Lok Sabha today during question hour that the state governments are taking steps but these need to be further strengthened.

He said paramilitary forces and sophisticated weapons have been provided to them on their request. Some extremists have been arrested. The minister said the states have been asked to step up the developmental work to tackle the situation.

Iran

Hijacking Situation Continues at Mashhad

IRNA Lists Released Hostages

LD061524 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 6 Apr 88

[All names as received]

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Prov., April 6, IRNA—The names of the female passengers released by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner are as follows: (the first ten are Britons): 1-Elizabeth Jane Sefton, 2-Patricia Sefton, 3-Jean Emma Sefton, 4-Suzanne Armstrong, 5-Susan Carew-Jones, 6-Nicola-Mary Appleby, 7-Jane Susan Silcock, 8-Jacqueline Foss, 9-Katalin Kurucz, 10-Elaine Mc Intosh, 11-Leila Almasheh (Palestine), 12-Seauu-Lee Shen (Singapore), 13-Marayam O'Tkells (Ireland), 14-Heidrun Jangser (Germany), 15-Sauujade Geokgi (Austria), 16-Hoda Danab (Egypt), 17-Maman al-Soltan (Egypt), 18-Sava Ahmad (Egypt), 19-Yassamin Atassi (Syria), 20-Rakchat Jiratorn (Thailand), 21-Khalyathed Janya (Thailand), 22-Junga Harnsuranich (Thailand), 23-Fuzieh Tasafuzia (Pakistan), 24-Maria Ifchoon (Philippines).

Efforts To Free Passengers

LD061633 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 6, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has applied all its efforts to secure the release of passengers from the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, said a spokesman for Prime Ministry delegation here Wednesday.

The spokesman said Iran has tried to settle the affair peacefully and without any unnecessary bloodshed by utilising all its facilities and capabilities.

The Kuwaiti Boeing 747 was hijacked on its way to Kuwait from Bangkok and force-landed at the airport here since it was running short of fuel.

A Kuwaiti delegation arrived here today to study the issue. [passage omitted]

The Iranian official pointed out that the Islamic Republic endeavours to preserve a composed atmosphere between the hijackers and the Kuwaiti officials.

The spokesman stressed that Iran hopes that the affair would be settled soon in an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation and that innocent people will not suffer as a result of the problems of the Kuwaiti Government.

The visiting Kuwaiti officials have appreciated Iran's efforts for solving the problem and have expressed hope the affair would soon come to an end.

Swedish Envoy Tries To Visit

LD061653 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpt] At a request from Great Britain, Swedish diplomat (Gunnar Sommarin) is trying to get from Tehran to Mashhad to assist the Britons onboard the hijacked Kuwaiti passenger aircraft. But so far the Iranian authorities have prevented him from travelling to Mashhad.

More than 80 people are still being held hostage by the hijackers. [passage omitted]

Refueling Possible

LD061728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Iranian Government's asked the Kuwaiti Government to send a delegation to negotiate directly with the hijackers; at 1540 this afternoon the aircraft carrying the official Kuwaiti delegation touched down at Mashhad Airport. The delegation was welcomed by Mashhad Province officials and Foreign Ministry officials. Immediately after this, negotiations on the latest state of the hijacked aircraft were carried out between the Kuwaiti delegation and Iranian officials at the airport.

In this meeting, Kuwaiti officials expressed their thanks and appreciation for the humanitarian efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also expressed the hope that cooperation by the Islamic Republic of Iran may make it possible to solve this problem

Following a request by the hijackers for a doctor to examine several of the passengers, an Iranian doctor entered the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner. A Central News Unit reporter interviewed him when he came out. He said: I saw four hijackers who were wearing masks and were carrying side arms in the airplane. Asked about the health of those who are sick, he said: All the passengers are now well and no women are left on board.

Meanwhile, it is said that following the release of 24 women passengers, the hijackers, in a conversation with the control tower of Mashhad Airport, asked that a list of the names and nationalities of the freed prisoners be prepared. The hijackers also asked that photographers and other persons who are responsible for the security of the airliner keep far away.

Asked whether they would provide fuel to the Kuwaiti plane so it could take off from Mashhad Airport, responsible Iranian authorities in Mashhad said: We will provide fuel for the plane to prevent any calamity or incident.

Another report states: Last night at an extraordinary session of the Kuwaiti Cabinet, the crown prince said: To secure the safety of the passengers and pilots of the aircraft, it is necessary to have direct negotiations with the hijackers. However, they must not be allowed to leave Iran for any other point. The Kuwaiti crown prince added: The hijackers, numbering five or six, speak Arabic. The name of the pilot is Yusuf Sobhi Yusuf, who is 48 years old and is an Iraqi; he is an experienced pilot for Kuwaiti Airlines.

According to a REUTER report, the English-language KUWAIT TIMES has praised the Islamic Republic of Iran for its handling of the hijacking of the Boeing 747.

Mo'ayeri 'Hopeful'

NC061856 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Telephone interview with Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri at Mashhad Airport "moments ago" by unidentified correspondent in Tehran—recorded; inset of Mo'ayeri, still of hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, clip of released female passengers shown during the interview]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Mo'ayeri, greetings.

[Mo'ayeri] Yes?

[Reporter] I am calling from Tehran. Could you please tell our viewers about the current situation of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner and the measures taken in the past 24 hours by your team?

[Mo'ayeri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I greet our dear compatriots. As a follow-up, we were able to have 24 the female passengers released at 0200 hours this morning. They are of different nationalities, British, Egyptian, Filipino, Pakistani, Austrian, and German. We enabled them to go into the city and contact their families, and they are now staying in good conditions. The [word indistinct] of the airport had been closed because of the emergency landing of the Kuwaiti airliner on the Mashhad Airport runway. After contacts with the hijackers today we were able to open the runway, and the airplane was transferred to another location.

The other news is that some medical requests were received, as apparently the condition of three of the passengers in the airplane was not satisfactory. A doctor was sent into the airplane and gave the necessary medical attention. At present, the condition of the passengers is satisfactory. Similarly, this evening a Kuwaiti delegation arrived in Mashhad and the latest developments in connection with the hijacked airliner were conveyed to them by our representatives. They were also apprised of the demands of the hijackers and their viewpoint. These talks continue, and we are hopeful that as soon as possible we will be able to resolve this issue without any difficulty, incident, or loss.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

Plane Hijacked Over India

LD061921 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Mashhad, April 6, IRNA—The five freed stewardesses of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner said the plane was hijacked over Bombay's air space by at least five armed masked men, in the early hours Tuesday.

The stewardesses are among the 24 female passengers allowed to disembark the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 by the hijackers early Wednesday. The plane had 96 passengers and 16 crew members.

The released air hostesses related there were only two hours from their destination, Kuwait, when suddenly a masked man armed with a Colt announced from the second floor of the jumbo jet in English that the plane is hijacked.

They also told IRNA that they are worried about the fate of seven of their colleagues who are held hostage inside the plane. [passage omitted]

Commandos Reportedly Storm Jet

NC061956 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1949 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] According to an urgent dispatch from Iran tonight, the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft which landed at one of Iran's airports ended when a group of Iranian commandos stormed it. The reports say that several persons, including one Kuwaiti citizen, were killed.

Food Sent to Aircraft

LD062025 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 6, IRNA—According to the latest reports, the hijacked Kuwaiti plane is still parked at the Mashhad airport and all lights inside it are apparently switched off.

There has been no radio conversation between the hijackers and the control tower since some food was allowed inside the plane at 22:45 hours local time (19:15 GMT).

Kuwaiti Advice Followed

LD062151 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Hijacked Kuwaiti plane: At 7:30 am yesterday morning Tehran time, a Boeing 747 Kuwaiti passenger airliner which had requested emergency landing from Mashhad Airport control tower, landed in the airport of the city. The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at first opposed the landing of this plane; however, when the pilot of the plane announced he was running out of fuel, they agreed.

After landing of this plane, it became known that the said plane had been hijacked by some armed men and that the hijackers were pursuing special objectives behind it. In this relation the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the issuance of a statement, while condemning the act of hijacking and all acts which endanger the lives of innocent individuals, announced the matter was immediately reported to the Kuwaiti officials and although Iran proposed to allow the plane be refuelled, and to leave the Iranian territory as soon as possible, it will nonetheless act according to Kuwait's advice.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by sending a written message addressed to the Iranian Foreign Minister in the first reaction aimed at resolving this issue said:

The Kuwaiti Government has perfect confidence in the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in resolving the issue of hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane and in the efforts undertaken by Iran for the setting free of its passengers and its crew members.

Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of Iran, in the first practical action taken by the Government of Iran by sending a delegation headed by Mr Mo'ayeri, the deputy prime minister, started his efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to this issue. In a short interview which was held yesterday, he announced that these kind of acts are not right either from ideological and humanitarian points of view, or politically, and that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns any kind of act which endangers the life of innocent people.

In an interim, the officials of the Kuwaiti airline company while releasing the number and nationality of the passengers, announced that four members of the amir of Kuwait's family are among the passengers. Kuwait with 30 passengers and Britain with 22 passengers have the majority number of numerous nationalities present in the plane.

Nevertheless, the hijackers in their first statement, read in Arabic, through the plane's radio at 6.30 pm yesterday afternoon, did not make any reference to this issue.

As their first demand, they called for the release of 17 inmates in Kuwait. In this relatively short statement, no reference has been made to the name of any of the prisoners, nevertheless, the Kuwaiti Government has been accused of torturing those prisoners. Towards the end of the statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been addressed as follows:

If Iran is not willing to play the role of mediator with the Kuwaiti Government and of holding talks, it should agree to their request for fuelling and necessary needs so that they will be able to leave Iran.

Kuwait To Have 'Another Chance'

LD070030 Tehran IRNA in English 0027 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner in a statement issued at 19:00 GMT announced they will provide another opportunity to the Kuwaiti Government to meet their demand on the release of 17 political prisoners from a Kuwaiti jail. They did not elaborate.

The statement said the Kuwaiti delegation currently at Mashhad airport to monitor developments concerning the hijacked passenger plane was only wasting time. Accusing Kuwait's Government of perpetrating crimes against Kuwaiti revolutionary Muslims, the statement said that many of the Kuwaiti political prisoners have so far been hospitalized in that sheikhdom for mental and physical problems after being tortured.

The Boeing 747 airliner enroute to Kuwait from Bangkok was hijacked Tuesday morning by yet unidentified Arab gunmen and forced to land at Mashhad Airport because of fuel shortage. An Iranian delegation led by the deputy prime minister for political affairs Ali Reza Mo'ayeri was despatched to Mashhad to find a peaceful solution to the issue.

The statement also called on the Iranian delegation to act as a liaison between the hijackers and the Kuwaiti delegation.

The Hijackers warned that they will not tolerate unsuitable behaviour on the part of the Iranian delegation which they said will result in the hijackers' hostile treatment.

Release of Non-Kuwaitis Possible

LD070042 Tehran IRNA in English 0037 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner in a radio conversation with the control tower at 20:00 GMT Wednesday announced they were considering the possibility of releasing non-Kuwaiti passengers.

The announcement was made following efforts of an Iranian delegation sent by the Prime Ministry to Mashhad to settle the issue peacefully.

During the latest radio contact, a message from a Kuwaiti delegation currently at Mashhad Airport was radioed to the hijackers claiming that prisoners whom the hijackers have asked for their release have never been tortured.

The message also said that families of the prisoners have been allowed to meet them and that the Kuwaiti Government has not issued death sentences for the said group nor will it do so in the future.

After receiving the message, the hijackers described it as a 'waste of time' and said they will release a new message.

Release of 'Some' Planned

LD070051 Tehran IRNA in English 0045 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner currently at Mashhad Airport announced early Thursday they will release some of the passengers.

The hijackers also said the other passengers will remain hostage and will be considered political prisoners and thus treated in a manner enabling the hijackers to "settle our account" with the Kuwaiti Government.

They also warned Iran's security forces not to approach the plane.

Royal Captives To Pay 'Dearly'

LD070057 Tehran IRNA in English 0052 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner said early today that a number of passengers would be freed but warned that the others would be in serious danger.

They said in a statement that the Kuwaiti Government understands only the language of force and therefore needs a harsh treatment to realize its responsibility for the grave consequences of the issue.

They also warned that three members of Kuwait's royal family who are among the passengers held hostage in the plane will pay a dearly price. They did not elaborate. The three are Fadl Khalid Jabir al-Sabah, Ibtissam Khalid Jabir al-Sabah, and Anwar Khalid Jabir al-Sabah [names as received].

The statement also warned the Iranian delegation against ordering any measures against the plane and the hijackers both during and after the release of passengers, saying that such measures will have grave consequences.

32 More Passenger Released

LD070059 Tehran IRNA in English 0057 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 7, IRNA—Hijackers released 32 more passengers of the Kuwaiti airliner at 23:00 GMT Wednesday.

The group includes two flight crew members, a Sudanese and a Yemenese.

The free group was immediately moved to the transit hall and went under medical care.

An ailing Jordanian and 24 female passengers had already been released by the Arab-speaking hijackers of the Kuwaiti passenger plane.

According to a list released by the Kuwaiti airways, 55 more passengers and crew members are still being held by the hijackers.

In a statement issued minutes before the release of the second batch of the passengers, the hijackers said they wanted the world to become aware of their demand and to know that the Kuwaiti Government severely tortures Muslim prisoners in the country.

They also said they will insist on their demand and want the world to realise the "real nature of the Kuwaiti rulers who have overlooked all the problems of the Muslim world and at the top of them the issue of Palestine and the brave Palestinians who are fighting Israel."

Immediately after the release of the second group, the hijackers closed the doors and turned off the light inside the cabin.

In an earlier statement the hijackers said they had no alternative but to adopt a policy not favoured by them "now that the Kuwaiti Government understands no language but the language of force."

They said the account of innocent people was separate from those "guilty." Therefore, they stressed, they will free anyone they thought had nothing to do with the issue. They said the three members of the Kuwaiti royal family will be among the first who should "pay a dearly price."

They also stressed that they will not back down from their demand "even if the price was very very heavy."

Kuwaiti Ministry Comments

NC070327 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner is still parked at Mashhad airport, in northern Iran, and that most of the passengers, including two Kuwaiti women, are still being held on board. In his statement to KUNA, the source said that the health of the passengers who have been released is good, and they are being housed in a hotel in Mashhad.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti delegation which arrived in Mashhad yesterday afternoon has visited the freed passengers to assure itself of their condition. The delegation is still holding contacts with competent Iranian quarters, which are making continuous efforts to end the incident and guarantee the safety of the passengers.

Radio Reports Developments

LD070457 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In our next report we hear the latest news on the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner in Mashhad: In the wake of continuous talks and efforts by officials of the Islamic Republic, and after 43 hours, 32 more non-Kuwaiti passengers of this plane were released and taken to a hotel in Mashhad. It is worth mentioning that at 2100 last night, nine of the women who had been released earlier and were concerned about the fate of their relatives in the plane met with the Kuwaiti delegation dispatched to Mashhad and asked this delegation to undertake more serious efforts so as to solve the problem peacefully. After this meeting, one of the women, in an

interview with correspondents, announced: The Kuwaiti officials have expressed hope this problem will be solved by tomorrow, and there is no cause for concern.

Following the interview, the hijackers, in releasing two statements addressed to the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and Kuwait at 2200 last night, once again reiterated their demands and declared their readiness for martyrdom until their sacred objectives are achieved. At 2300 last night, the delegation of the IRI contacted the hijackers via the airport control tower and informed them of comments by the Kuwaiti Government delegation dispatched to Mashhad, denying any torture of the prisoners and saying that their families have been allowed to visit them.

It was stressed that despite the fact that the government of Kuwait has issued execution sentences for a number of these prisoners, it has not carried out the sentences yet and may not carry them out in the future either. The Kuwaiti delegation further said that if the hijackers show their good intention by releasing all the passengers, this would help the two sides' talks for the realization of the hijackers' demands.

In reply to the stated views of the Kuwaiti officials, the plane hijackers immediately said that these proposals are nothing new, refused to accept them, and announced: Because our opponent is the government of Kuwait, we are planning to release the non-Kuwaiti passengers after the necessary investigations.

At 0045 this morning, the hijackers issued a statement and once again explained their objectives. Denouncing the crimes of the United States and its agents in the region, paying tribute to the Muslim nation of Palestine for their heroic uprising, and praising the uprisings of other Muslim nations, they criticized the tyranny, oppression, and corruption of Kuwait's rulers and insisted that their demands be met.

At 0100 in the morning, in another statement the hijackers announced: The innocent individuals are different from the guilty ones and all the non-Kuwaiti passengers of the plane will be released soon; but the remaining individuals including three members of the Al-Sabah family, named Fadl Khalid Jabir al-Sabah, Ibtissam Khalid Jabir al-Sabah, and Anwar Khalid Jabir al-Sabah are classed as political prisoners and they will be treated in a way as to settle our accounts with the government of Kuwait; and members of the Al-Sabah family will be the first individuals who will pay a heavy price. The statement added: We warn the Iranians from taking any action.

An hour later, at 0230, 32 non-Kuwaiti male passengers, including two Yemeni and Sudanese members of the crew, were released; and after being transferred to the main terminal of the airport and receiving medical checks, they were promptly taken to a Mashhad hotel to rest.

At 0400, the Kuwait delegation while thanking the IRI for its efforts which brought the freedom of another group of passengers, went to the hotel where the released passengers are resting to meet and talk to them.

It is necessary to explain that the nationalities of the 32 non-Kuwaiti passengers released are as follows: 12 British, 6 Thai, 3 Pakistanis, 2 Austrians, 2 Syrians, and 1 each from Sudan, West Germany, South Yemen, Japan, Lebanon, South Korea, and Ireland.

Captive Receives Treatment

LD070510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 plane, after hours of no radio contact, at 0710 contacted the Mashhad Airport control tower and announced: Anwar Khalid Jabir al-Sabah, a relative of the amir of Kuwait, who is a hostage of the hijackers, has asked to talk with the Kuwaiti delegation. But Khalid, whose voice was shaking, was overtaken by strong physical and mental tension and panic, and the hijackers asked for a doctor to be sent inside the plane. After receiving medical treatment, Khalid in a message asked the Kuwaiti delegation to ask the Al-Sabah family to meet the demands of the hijackers. Khalid passed a message to the Mashhad Airport control tower that she and her sister are feeling all right [sentence as heard].

UK Foreign Office Briefed

LD070546 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0519 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Mr Akhondzadeh-Basti, vowed the hijackers would face trial and imprisonment if caught alive.

Speaking after briefing Foreign Office personnel on the latest situation, he declined to say whether he had requested British help.

Mr Basti said Iranian officials at the scene in Mashhad were cooperating with Kuwaiti experts, but added: "We have the capability to use force.

"However, it is a very delicate matter and the smallest mistake may endanger the lives of innocent people. From the beginning of this crisis, Iran has been doing its best to see that the lives of innocent civilians are safe and secure."

Mr Basti stressed his government's opposition to acts of terrorism.

A Foreign Office spokesman said a senior official expressed concern to Mr Basti that two diplomats representing Britain's interests in Iran during the crisis were prevented from reaching the airport due to Iranian red tape.

He added: "We reiterated our concern for the safety of the British and other passengers, and in particular the importance we attach to the Iranians facilitating the onward passage through Iran for the released women hostages."

The Kuwaiti charge d'affaires, Dr Suhail Shuhaiber, called at the Foreign Office to meet Mrs Chalker, and said the Kuwaiti authorities were sending an aircraft to Mashhad.

This was assumed to be to bring home the freed passengers. [passage omitted]

Departure If Demands Not Met

LD070727 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Hijackers of the Kuwaiti jumbo jet have threatened that they will leave Mashhad Airport by noon today if they did not receive a favorable response from Kuwait regarding their demand to release 17 political prisoners in Kuwaiti jails.

The warning came after the Kuwaiti delegation at the airport announced at 09:30 hours local time (06:00 hours GMT) that they will start negotiations with the Hijackers only after the release of all the passengers and crew of the airliner.

A spokesman for the Iranian Prime Ministry delegation here told IRNA the Kuwaiti delegation's condition for negotiation was conveyed to the hijackers who issued the following reply:

1. We have taken many positive steps including the release of the crew and passengers with various nationalities and have allowed medical care for the ailing ones, but so far have seen no positive move by the Kuwaiti Government.

2. We give the Kuwaiti officials time until 12:00 hours (08:30 GMT) and if they do not give a positive reply to our demand, we will leave the Mashhad Airport by accepting all the subsequent responsibilities.

(It is to be recalled that the hijackers have already asked for enough fuel and food).

3. We warn that we will not bear any threat against the plane and declare that we have readiness to explode the plane.

Mo'ayeri Faults Kuwaitis

LD070929 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Despite ceaseless efforts by the Iranian Prime Ministry delegation to settle the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, the Kuwaiti delegation here does not take the issue seriously, Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri said today.

He said Iran does not deem it wise to prolong an issue which is in no way related to the Islamic Republic, so that it might, God forbid, lead to unpredictable events.

Mo'ayeri said the Kuwaiti delegation has been informed of the latest developments in this regard since its arrival, "but it seems that they are not taking the matter seriously and attach no importance to the lives of their own citizens."

"While we are trying to put an immediate end to the hijacking the Kuwaiti delegation seems to have no authority to make any decision here," Mo'ayeri said. He reiterated that Iran is against hijacking and hostage taking, and "we are doing our best to solve the problem peacefully."

Meanwhile the Kuwait delegation announced upon arrival here that it is not ready to hold direct negotiations with the hijackers, and the hijackers too have not shown any willingness to do so.

On the other hand the Kuwaiti delegation is not constantly present at the airport, and it seems they are unwilling to end the ordeal.

Iranian officials have equipped a room with necessary communications sets for the Kuwaiti delegates in order to establish contacts with the hijackers but they have so far refused to attend the room.

IRNA Lists 32 Released

LD070952 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The names of the 32 passengers released by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane early today are as follows [all names as received]: 1—Babike Aljeeb, 35, Sudan; 2—Abdulla Alhojomar, 27, South Yemen (crew); 3—Awada Maleknemr, 35, Lebanon; 4—Samer Alattasi, 46, Syria; 5—Masato Otsuzuki, 41, Japan; 6—Malaz Soad Eddini Almaghrabi Alhussaini, 26, Syria; 7—Shafig Humayoon, 34, Pakistan; 8—Nisar Ahmed Memon, 45, Pakistan; 9—Jozes Georgi, 53, Austria; 10—Albert Watson, 62, England; 11—Heinz Ortner, 47, Austria; 12—Kieran O'Kelly, 47, Ireland; 13—Axel Jungfer, 45, W. Germany; 14—Job Jobratanapant, 38, Thailand; 15—Huabloifab Chamlong, 31, Thailand; 16—Ghulamahmad Qureshi, 36, Pakistan; 17—Weerapone Ncuanwondwichit, 27,

Thailand; 18—Sompoay Manewong, 29, Thailand; 19—David Carew-Jones, 30, England; 20—Donald Sefton, 39, England; 21—Mark Appleby, 23, England; 22—James Garat, 37 England; 23—Joonson Lee, 40, South Korea; 24—Thowserospo Jooy, 42, Thailand; 25—Senamat Supol, 38, Thailand; 26—Simon Pollock, 26, England; 27—Andrew Watson, 24, England; 28—Bela Kurucz, 56, England; 29—Gerald Moore, 36, England; 30—Scott Stillwell, 23, England; 31—Peter Bertlan, 28, England; 32—James Yarrow, 25, England.

Hijackers Demand Fuel

LD071004 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—With the approach of the deadline set by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner, they demanded fuel and starter at 11:05 hours (07:35 GMT) to get ready for take-off. The request however was rejected by Iranian officials.

Five minutes later, the hijackers requested three meals but were provided only with one.

At 11:40 (08:10 GMt) they again had a radio conversation with the control tower, asking for fuel and demanding that all obstacles in front of the plane be removed.

The hijackers also warned Iranian officials not to kill time, saying that wasting of time would mean Iran's complicity with Kuwait.

At 12:00 hours (08:30 GMT) the hijackers announced that the release of some passengers including women and ill people should not be interpreted as a sign of their weakness but their good-will. They said by doing so they had only accepted Iran's logical demands.

"Since the Kuwaiti Government has not positively responded to our demands we have to carry out our threats," they warned.

Ten minues later, the hijackers demanded a grand power [as received] for air conditioning which was accepted.

Plane Contacts Kuwait Directly

LD071008 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane were enabled to directly inform Kuwait of their demands through the captain's cabin.

According to latest reports, at 12:15 hours local time (08:45 hours GMT) the hijackers asked Iranian officials to enable them to establish direct contact with Kuwait saying that they had now reached the conclusion that the Kuwaiti delegation had no authority and did not take the issue seriously.

Iranian officials accepted the request and the contact was made possible at 12:20 hours (08:50 GMT).

Hostage Urges Fuel Provision

LD071037 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—A member of Kuwait's royal family held hostage in the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner urged Iranian officials to provide them with fuel in order to take off.

Fadl Khalid Jabir al-Sabah in a radio conversation with the control tower at 12:45 hours local time (09:15 GMT) said "We are very tired and our brothers (hijackers) are very serious in their threat to blow up the plane."

Following the conversation, the hijackers radioed a message to Iranian officials, asking for fuel and warning that they would carry out their previous threats if their demand for fuel is rejected.

In response, the Iranian Prime Ministry delegation currently at Mashhad airport to settle the issue peacefully urged the hijackers to give up their threats.

Iranian officials stressed that there are contacts underway between the Islamic Republic and a Kuwaiti official in that country and that Iran believes the best solution to the issue is a peaceful one.

Turkey Asked To Mediate

TA071116 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Turkey has condemned the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, which was forced to land at Iran's Mashhad Airport. The Kuwaiti Government has asked Turkey to mediate in a bid to rescue the passengers on the plane. The initiatives of the Turkish Embassy in Tehran are continuing.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ambassador Inal Batu gave the following response to reporters who asked him for Turkey's reaction to the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner:

Turkey has always condemned terrorist actions, regardless of their objectives, and has occupied the front ranks of determined countries which advocate international cooperation in order to eradicate international terrorism. We put the recent hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner during a scheduled flight from Bangkok to Kuwait in this category, and we condemn this incident. We sincerely desire and expect the safe release of the innocent passengers and crew aboard the plane, without injury. We also hope and expect that the plane will be handed back to Kuwait. Furthermore, we welcome Iran's determined attitude disapproving the incident. We believe that the efforts exerted by Iran will be effective in the resolution of the incident.

Batu declared that Kuwait has asked Turkey to mediate in order to save the passengers on the plane. He noted that Turkey is assessing the matter from a humanitarian viewpoint and that the Turkish ambassador's initiatives on the subject are continuing.

Meanwhile, responding to reporters' questions, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, currently on an official visit to Ankara, said that Britain views hijacking incidents negatively. Thatcher said that she had reports that the British hostages on the plane had been released, but the reports have not yet been confirmed. Noting that Prime Minister Turgut Ozal will inform her of any new information on the subject, Thatcher added: Our sensitivity continues concerning the other hostages. We view hijacking incidents negatively.

Deadline Extension Asked

LD071119 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7 IRNA—The Iranian delegation has asked the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner to extend the deadline on account of the ongoing contacts between Iran and Kuwaiti officials.

Fuel, Food Demanded

LD071215 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner have insisted that the plane be allowed to take off for an unknown destination at the end of their extended deadline at 14:00 hours local time (10:30 GMT).

The hijackers, who had already extended their deadline for two hours until 10:30 GMT reiterated their demand for fuel and three portions of meal.

In a radio conversation with the control tower, the hijackers announced that they were in Iran to fulfil justice but that their demand was not met.

According to the latest reports, Iranian officials have announced they would supply the hijackers with food and fuel provided that the passengers and crew members of the plane be released.

Although the Iranian delegation currently at Mashhad airport to settle the issue peacefully, has advised the hijackers to revise their decision in order not to endanger the passengers' lives, the hijackers have said they have placed explosive inside the plane since it landed at Mashhad airport.

They have also warned that nobody should approach the airliner or else they will blow up the plane with all its passengers and crew members.

The Iranian delegation has also offered the hijackers to give an opportunity to once again voice their demand for the release of the 17 prisoners to Kuwaiti officials.

The hijackers, reiterating their need for fuel, said that Kuwaiti rulers whom they describe as subservients of the U.S. would never approve of their demand.

Addressing the Iranian delegation, the hijackers said "Your refusal to supply us with fuel is in the interest of Kuwait. You have disappointed us."

Meanwhile, the pilot radioed the control tower, warning that he was threatened with death if he did not fly the airliner and if so the plane would crash because of fuel shortage.

Hijackers Fire on Forces

LD071218 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The hijackers fired three warning shots at security forces circling the plane, at 14:55 hours (11:25 GMT) and once again called for removal of obstacles on their way.

The emergency medical team stationed at the airport is on full alert.

At 15:00 hours (11:30 GMT) too, the hijackers fired two more shots at the security forces.

The Kuwaiti delegation at the airport is closely watching the situation and witnessing the shooting.

Situation 'Critical'

LD071243 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—The situation at the airport here is reported to be critical since 15:00 hours local time (11:30 GMT) and the taxiway has been closed to prevent the plane from flying.

Disciplinary and relief forces are on full alert while the situation is presently out of control and anything may happen any moment.

Non-stop radio contacts between the pilot and the control tower continue while the Iranian delegation is in constant contact with the hijackers, inviting them to keep cool. The Iranian delegation on the other hand is in touch with the Kuwaiti delegation here, while the hijackers are adding to their threats.

The Iranian delegation has employed every effort to save the passengers, but the hijackers have time and again accused Iranian officials of complicity with the Kuwaiti Government, and insist on leaving Iran.

Tehran Commentary on Reasons Behind Hijacking
LD061648 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] On Tuesday morning, a Kuwaiti Airlines plane, carrying 96 passengers and 18 crew members from Bangkok to Kuwait, entered Iranian air space after being hijacked, and without the permission of Iranian authorities. It entered Iranian air space at 0615 from the Persian Gulf at 36 degrees latitude. Approximately 90 miles from Mashhad it requested permission to make an emergency landing.

The request was turned down; and all airports in the country were closed. However, after the pilot announced that the plane was running out of fuel, on humanistic grounds, it was agreed to allow it to land. Because of the emergency it landed at Mashhad airport at 0730.

The situation was soon communicated to the Kuwaiti authorities. They were told that though the Islamic Republic of Iran thought that the plane should be refueled so it could leave Iranian territory as soon as possible, the desires of the Kuwaiti authorities would be respected.

The Iranian prime minister, while condemning hijacking, sent his political assistant to Mashhad to survey the situation of the hijacked Kuwaiti 747.

Since yesterday the Iranian authorities have initiated vast efforts to free the plane's passengers and solve this problem. These efforts were such that, thanks to them, so far 22 female passengers of the plane have been freed. Efforts continue to free other passengers.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti vice premier and foreign minister, in a written message addressed to Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, expressed appreciation and gratitude for the efforts and measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran to solve the problem of the Kuwaiti Airlines plane hijacking. In this message he said: The Government of Kuwait has full confidence in the measures that the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted to solve the problem of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane. He also said that he has full confidence in the efforts of the Iranian authorities to secure the freedom of the passengers.

In principle, we must say that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always opposed any measure that endangers the lives of innocent people. To quote Engineer Musavi, Iranian prime minister, such measures, whether from the point of view of ideology and humanistic principles or from the point of view of politics, are not correct. Under no circumstances must one play with the lives of innocent people.

Yet, the consciences that are aware have a duty to pay attention to the phenomenon of plane hijacking; they must assess it with precision. Because some of these deeds result from other inhumane deeds. Hijacking takes place in protest of those deeds.

Hijackers usually present justifications for their hijacking; however, some of them have been efforts to justify purely terrorist actions. But others have stemmed from other problems to which the world has seldom paid attention. Shouldn't one expect a move to expose such crimes as those in occupied Palestine—the killing and torturing of men, women, and children, or burning them alive, or burying a youth alive? Shouldn't one expect a move to rectify the rights of the revolutionary Muslims of the West? [as heard]

Therefore, it may well be said that the roots of some of these phenomena lie in popular protests. The hijackers of the Kuwaiti plane, in their first statement, said their act was in line with rectifying the rights of their nation and Muslims. They have said that the rights of the Muslim nation have been cut off and that nation has been wronged.

These points, to some extent, explain the reason for the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane; they show that one way to prevent repetition of such events is to confront inhumane acts.

Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not and has not condoned hijacking. It has always condemned such acts. Moreover, some hijacking activities have purely terrorist objectives and have been principally perpetrated by those who are themselves responsible for many inhuman activities. Hijacking is a disagreeable and indecent act. The international community must act to find the roots of such acts to prevent their repetition.

Velayati Denies Use of Chemicals Against Iraq
LD061650 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Washington, April 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati categorically rejected Baghdad's baseless claims that Iran had used chemical weapons against Iraqi forces.

In a letter to the United Nations secretary general Velayati expressed surprise that Javier Perez de Cuellar has responded positively to the untenable Iraqi request for despatch of a U.N. team to Iraq within 24 hours, while it took more than two weeks for the secretary general to respond to serious and repeated requests by Iran regarding a far graver situation.

Iraqi regime in a vain attempt to divert the international public opinion from Iraqi genocide in the city of Halabjah and in the Qarah Dagh region, where Iraqi civilians were targets of chemical warfare by the Iraqi war criminals, has called on the UN to send a team to Iraq, Velayati said.

The letter said the Iraqi regime has not requested the secretary general to despatch the U.N. team of specialists to the affected areas, where the responsibility for chemical attacks could be determined. Rather, it has merely asked the team to visit hospitals in Baghdad, while it has been authoritatively and independently established that due to certain atmospheric conditions, Iraqi soldiers were in previous cases affected by chemical weapons which the Iraqi regime itself deployed.

Since the Iraqi regime has now requested the despatch of the team, it cannot, as in previous cases, prevent a full and comprehensive examination of the available evidence in Iran and Iraq, said the letter. While the team which recently completed its investigation in Iran had ample evidence at its disposal to carry out its task in its own capacity, there remains a large body of evidence in the sites of the chemical attacks to be examined by the specialists who were not included in the team, it added.

Therefore, the letter said, it is imperative to despatch a chemical weapons specialist as well as a military specialist to Iran to complete the work of the previous team.

The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the secretary general should despatch a full team to the affected areas, in addition to visiting the patients, and with a view to investigating the claims of use of chemical weapons by the parties. The team should be authorized to visit the areas which have been subjected to chemical attacks.

In this connection, visits to Halabjah and Qarah Dagh region are indispensable, Velayati said, adding that Halabjah suffered from an unprecedented resort to chemical warfare by Iraq on 18 March 1988.

He elsewhere said Iraqi regime has made a baseless accusation against the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the same city, therefore, any investigation without a visit to Halabjah will indeed be incomplete.

More on the issue Velayati said the most recent Iraqi resort to chemical warfare against its own civilians occured in the Qarah Dagh region, with a large number of civilian casualties. In addition to conducting on-sight investigation of the extent of this latest Iraqi war crime, the team can indeed provide the urgently needed, and till now unavailable, emergency medical warfare in the Qarah Dagh region.

Velayati concluded the letter by saying that in view of the repeated use of chemical weapons in increasingly alarming proportions by Iraq, it is necessary that this investigative endeavour of the secretary general lead to a binding and enforceable decision on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. It is imperative that the parties commit themselves to accept and abide by such a binding decision.

UN Envoy Rejects Chemical Weapons Claims

LD060640 Tehran IRNA in English 0501 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Rome, April 6, IRNA—Iran's envoy to the United Nations' European office Sirus Nasseri [name as received] described as "sheer lies" Iraq's claims that Iran has deployed chemical weapons in the war. At a press conference in Geneva Tuesday, Nasseri said the Iraqi allegations are levelled in a bid to cool down international anger against the Iraqi regime.

He described Baghdad's request from the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for despatch of a probe team to Iraq as a suitable opportunity for the U.N. team to examine evidence of Iraq's crimes against civilians in Halabjah and Qarah Dagh village.

The Iranian envoy pointed to condemnation of Iraqi regime by the U.N. secretary general, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and certain member countries of the disarmament conference, and said the Baghdad regime publi[illegible]d the same 'lies' in 1987. He added a report to De Cuellar by a UN delegation in May 1987 clearly proved the baselessness of Iraqi allegations on Iran's deployment of chemical weapons.

He said Iran's Muslim combatants will powerfully retaliate Iraqi attacks against Iranian civilian areas and on the war fronts as they did in the Val-Fajr-10 operations.

Kharrazi News Conference on War, Hijacking

LD061718 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 6 Apr

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr. Kamal Kharrazi in a press conference here Wednesday warned international organizations against their failure to prevent the Iraqi regime from using chemical arms.

If international bodies fail to punish the Iraqi regime for its repeated deployment of chemical arms, Baghdad would be encouraged to continue its criminal acts which would seriously endanger world peace and security, Kharrazi said.

The WIH head, criticizing the U.N. Security Council, said the council instead of naming the aggressor party in Iraqi-imposed war (Iraq) is practically encouraging the Ba'thist regime to continue its aggression and is trying to impose an arms embargo on Iran, the victim of the conflict.

The Islamic Republic still insists on the punishment of the war mongering Ba'thist regime of Iraq because Iraqi rulers spare no criminal acts to keep themselves in power, he said adding, that in order to establish a lasting peace in the region, the cause of aggression should be uprooted.

Kharrazi also called on people around the world to convince their governments not to supply Iraq with sophisticated weapons or chemical arms.

Addressing himself to foreign reporters, Kharrazi told them that they were witnessing the firm resistance of the Iranian people against Iraqi missile and air attacks, their strong belief in democracy and their enthusiasm for participating in parliamentary elections due to be held on Friday.

Holding of the parliamentary poll under such circumstances is a sound proof of the existence of democracy and resistance in Iran, he said.

He said that Iraqi missile and air attacks have not had even the least adverse effect on the Iranian people's determination to continue their sacred defence. The Iranian people have, since the start of the Iraqi-imposed war, proved that they have no fear of such attacks, Kharrazi said.

Asked about the effects of the proposed arms embargo on Iran, Kharrazi replied that it could have no adverse effect on the country because Iran is self-sufficient in manufacturing missiles and many other weapons. Such a proposal will merely encourage Iranian scientists and researchers to speed up their efforts in this regard, he said.

On the impacts of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner which force-landed at Mashhad Airport Tuesday, on Iran's relations with Arab countries, Kharrazi said the Arabs have all witnessed Iran's good intentions and sincere efforts to resolve the issue peacefully.

The Arabs should also make use of such good intentions in improving their relations with the Islamic Republic, he added.

Responding to a question as to the successful test-flight of an Iranian-manufactured cargo plane a few days ago, he said that the manufacture of the plane was only the beginning of Iran's achievements in this field. Iranian experts are now working on more important projects on designing other types of planes.

On the alleged Iranian use of chemical weapons, Kharrazi said that Iran has never deployed chemical arms against Iraqi forces despite the Ba'thist regime's repeated use of such internationally-banned arms both against its own cities and Iranian villages.

Although Iran is quite capable of producing and deploying chemical weapons it has never done so, Kharrazi said, noting "we hope we will never be forced to produce or use chemical arms in the future because we consider such acts to be in contravention to human values and international regulations."

However, the WIH noted, Iran's tolerance and patience towards the issue is limited even though it is still expecting international bodies to take measures to force the Iraqi regime to discontinue its use of chemical weapons.

Elsewhere in his interview, Kharrazi said that if U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan to end the Iraqi-imposed war envisages the naming of the aggressor Iran will cooperate with him to implement his plan.

He also disclosed that the Qarah Dagh region in north-eastern Iraq was chemically bombed by the Iraqi regime as a result of which a large number of its Kurdish inhabitants has been martyred and 400 others trying to flee to neighboring Al-Sulaymaniyah have been arrested and mass executed by Ba'thist agents.

On the supply of surface-to-surface missiles to Iraq by the Soviet Union, the WIH head said that contrary to Soviet officials' statements the missiles were all Soviet-made SCUD's which were shipped to Iraq recently and that Iraq is unable to use them without Moscow's permission.

Larijani Meets With UN's Perez de Cuellar

LD070714 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Washington, April 7, IRNA—A senior Iranian official reiterated here Wednesday that any plan falling short of meeting Iran's rightful demands is unacceptable to Tehran.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani said this in the first round of his talks with U.N. secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Larijani outlined Iraqi crimes including its deployment of chemical weapons against civilians. He stressed that Iran was seeking a solution to bring lasting peace to the entire region after the war criminal is punished.

The discussions are being held following efforts by the Iraqi regime to force Iran to accept the U.N. Security Council resolution through chemical, missile and aerial attacks of civilian and non-military areas in Iran.

Majlis Speaker Cited on Mobilization Forces

LD051857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] A computer system listing all the members of the mobilization forces was inaugurated at a ceremony today in the presence of the Majlis speaker and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council. Our correspondent reports that the ceremony began as Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of the IRGC mobilization forces, described their activity in 1366 [year ending 20 March 1988], their projects for 1367, and the impact of computerizing the details of the mobilization forces.

Later Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, noted the role of the mobilization forces in the imposed war and the victories achieved. He said: Today the war is the most important issue of the Islamic revolution in the region and in the world. There is nothing more important than the war. At the moment the friends of the revolution are anxiously awaiting the advance of the Islamic forces, and the enemies of Islam are worried about the successes of the Islamic Republic of Iran's forces.

He added: The most significant role in the war is that of the mobilization forces. We have reached the conclusion that the most important and decisive aspects of the revolution have been entrusted to them. The epic feats of the mobilization forces in the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive dealt resounding blows to the Iraqi Army. This demonstrated the mobilization forces' power.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council spoke of the role of the citizens of Halabjah in the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive, saying: What surprised the world, the Ba'th Party, Saddam, and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran was the welcome the citizens of Halabjah gave the Islamic fighters. This proved that the Iraqi nation is not really with Saddam.

The Majlis speaker added: The Iraqi regime's chemical attack on Halabjah was a stupid decision that weakened the Iraqi Ba'th Party more severely than the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive and its consequences. By committing that crime, the Iraqis exacted revenge on the people who welcomed the Islamic fighters. The Iraqi regime recently decided that Iraqi cities should not be liberated intact by the Islamic fighters. The recent attack on Sayyid Sadiq was an example of this.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The enemy has received a serious blow and a significant breach has been created in his front lines. His relations with his nation have been strained, and his international credibility damaged. In contrast, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken an important military and political step. We now expect the Iraqi regime to use all its resources to save Ba'thist Iraq.

In conclusion, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council stressed: We must be ready all along the front. Our enemies are watching all the battlefronts through satellites and spies. The mobilization forces should all be ready to deliver successive and sustained blows against the Iraqi regime.

It should be noted that with the use of the computer system all the members of the mobilization forces will be organized; their position and location will be identified; and mobilization officials will know the forces' location and strength.

On the third term of the Majlis and the people's extensive participation in the election, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] I should like to say that obviously there is a conspiracy with regard to our coming election to create some weaknesses through the war of the cities and so forth. This has brought about a special situation. Our nation, with its extensive turnout at the polls, should give our enemies a resounding response. If the people always voted in the past, voting today is a categorical duty.

Another point is that, praise be to God, we now deem our nation mature. We know it is discerning. People will cast their vote, in shari'a terms, in favor of those they consider suitable and competent. God willing, with the election conducted well, we will have a better Majlis in the future. Even though, in my view, both the first and the second Majlis terms [words indistinct], nevertheless we should have one better than in the past. [end recording]

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

2d Iraqi Jet Fighter Downed

LD061634 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 6, IRNA—An Iraqi Sukhoi-22 jet was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire during an enemy air raid on Masjed-Soleyman town in this southern province at 09:31 hours local time (06:01 GMT).

Search is underway for locating the wreckage and pilot of the Iraqi jet which crashed in nearby mountains.

It was the second Iraqi warplane downed by Iranian anti-aircraft fire today.

Six civilians were martyred and nine others wounded in today's enemy bombardment of the town.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD061649 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired into two military centers in Baghdad at 16:19 and 16:20 hours Tehran time (12:49 and 12:50 GMT) Wednesday in reprisal for today's enemy missile and air attacks on Iran's cities, said a statement here today.

The statement, released by the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), warned that Iran's Muslim forces will continue their retaliatory attacks until Baghdad discontinues its "criminal acts".

Missiles Kill 15 in Tehran

LD061722 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Some Iranian villagers were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed the Kurdish-populated township of Ziveh, a village near Orumiyeh (West Azarbaijan Province) and a village near Sar Dasht on Wednesday.

Some houses were also destroyed in the savage Iraqi bombings.

Meanwhile, 15 civilians including five children and a woman were martyred and a group of others wounded in the course of Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran today.

11 Missiles Fired at Iraq

LD061905 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] In retaliation for the Zionist Iraqi regime's attacks on the residential areas of Tehran, Oramiyeh, Ilam, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Salmas, Dezful, Masjed-e Soleyman, and three villages in Orumiyeh and Sardasht today, 11 surface-to-surface missiles were fired at military and economic centers in Baghdad, Basrah, and Khanaqin.

The joint staff of the IRGC and the joint staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while announcing this bit of news, stressed: The mischief and firemongerings [atesh-afruz] by the Baghdad regime will continue to be met with retaliatory operations by the combatants of Islam in a decisive and strong manner.

Communique No 3,164

LD061909 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration centers, fortifications and armoured equipment emplacements in Sharani operational region, southern fronts, at 07:50, 07:55, 11:05 and 11:10 hours local time (04:20, 04:25, 07:35, 07:40 GMT) today, dealing heavy blows to Ba'thist forces.

All fighters returned safely to the bases, said a military communique released here Wednesday.

Communique Number 3164 of the Joint Staff Command said, Iranian fighters also heavily pounded Iraqi fortificatons near Sayyid Sadiq town and Shanehdari region, northeastern Iraq, inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy. All planes returned to the bases safely, it added.

Elsewhere in northeastern Iraq, Iranian fighter-bombers heavily bombarded Iraqi troop concentration sites in the "Val-Fajr-10" theatre in four sorties, while in southeastern Iraq they air raided enemy military installations in the Al-Kut-Al-'Amarah region at 14:21 (10:51 GMT) today.

The jet-fighters in continuation of their combat missions today, also dealt severe blows on enemy troop centres and Munafiqeen Headquarters in the Kalar Region, western fronts, in two sorties, said the communique.

All Iranian aircraft returned safely to their bases after inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy, it added.

The communique said the missile unit of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic's Army fired five surface-to-surface missiles on Iraqi military centers in Basra during Tuesday and Wednesday.

The missile unit of the Army ground forces fired four surface-to surface missiles at military installations of Kawi Kon, said the communique adding, Iraqi military and economic installations in Kani Kon, Banmil, Naft 'Khaneh, Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Qaladiza, and Dar al-Salam, as well as Kalaleh Garrison, Al-Sulaymaniyah power station were subjected to heavy artillery fire of Muslim combatants of Iran, it added. Iraqi forces sustained heavy damage and casualties.

An invading Iraqi 'Sukhoi 22' warplane was shot down in Masjed-Soleyman, Khuzestan Province by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 09:31 hours local time (06:01 gmt) Wednesday, it said.

Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi troop movement and enemy reconnaissance flights throughout the war fronts. An Iraqi patrol unit in Kharratha region and a motorized column in Zobeydah and Sharani region sustained some casualties and losses by Iranian artillery fire.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when enemy positions in parts of the western and southern fronts came under heavy artillery fire of the Iranian gendarmerie forces Tuesday.

The communique concluded that Iranian Navy reconnoitered a foreign warship and two cargo vessels in the Hormuz Strait Tuesday.

Jet Fighters Bomb Baghdad

LD070657 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters by breaking through sophisticated radar and anti-aircraft systems around Baghdad heavily bombed selected economic and military centers in the Iraqi capital twice Thursday morning.

In the first sorty, Iranian fighter bombers penetrated the airspace of the Iraqi capital at 05:50 hours local time (02:20 GMT), scoring accurate strikes at eco-military targets in the Iraqi capital before returning safely to bases.

Following the first bombing mission which completely caught the enemy by surprise, several other Iranian fighter bombers pounded 'Khafaji' Garrison in the outskirts of Baghdad at 06:00 hours local time (02:30 GMT).

The second squadron of Iranian fighters also all returned safely to bases after destroying the garrison's installations and killing and wounding dozens of Ba'thist soldiers.

The pilots who participated in the two successful missions said they saw heavy smoke rising from the areas they hit including the garrison indicating heavy damage and casualties have been inflicted on the enemy.

The successful Iranian operations belies the Iraqi regime's claims that Baghdad was impenetrable.

Meanwhile Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari described the bombing missions carried out by Iranian jet fighters today as 'unique' and 'very valuable' militarily.

Sattari noted that foreign military experts who have helped the Iraqi regime set up sophisticated radar and air defence systems around Baghdad are well aware of the significance of these operations and are definitely caught by surprise.

The commander also said that the Air Force pilots were in favorable conditions and are completely ready to carry out similar extra-territorial missions.

"Iranian jet fighters will pulverize all dens of corruption in Baghdad if the Iraqi regime continues its mischievous attacks on Iran's cities," the commander vowed.

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

LD070800 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically denied Iraqi allegations that it had shot down an Iranian fighter participating in today's bombing of Baghdad's eco-military sites.

The spokesman said Iraqi rulers have been shocked by the Iranian operations against Baghdad's eco-military installations and garrison, and therefore have no other alternative but resort to lies to compensate the loss.

He said the Iranian jet fighters carried out their mission successfully demolishing "nests of corruption" in Baghdad and returned to their bases safely.

Today's operations, he stressed, indicate that Baghdad and other cities in Iraq will not be immune until the end of the mischievous acts of the Iraqi regime and Iran's deterrent measures will firmly continue.

Jets Bomb Irbil, Other Centers

LD070836 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily pounded Iraqi military and economic centers in the northern city of Irbil at 06:45 hours local time (03:15 GMT) today.

Vital Iraqi centers in Kut and Al-'Amarah were also bombed by Iranian fighter bombers Wednesday afternoon sustaining heavy losses.

In other operations, Iranian jets raided counterrevolutionary headquarters belonging to the MKO (the so-called Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation) in Kelar Region, Diyala Province, and an enemy missile site in the same province Wednesday, destroying all their targets.

All Iranian planes returned safely to bases after their successful missions.

Pakistan

President Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Policies

BK070850 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0810 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the Geneva agreement can be signed any moment, because, according to unofficial reports, both the Soviet Union and United States have agreed on this matter—that they would continue to help their allies after the agreement.

He was addressing the joint sitting of Parliament in Islamabad today. He said the Soviet Union has also agreed on this point—that the UN mediator, Mr Cordovez, in his personal capacity would continue to work for the establishment of an interim government in Afghanistan.

The president appreciated the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, whose government took part in the proximity talks in right earnest. He reiterated that Pakistan would not leave the Afghan people alone.

Pakistan has taken a principled stand on the Afghanistan issue, which has been supported by the United Nations, NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It is the success of the determination and principles of the Pakistani people.

Referring to the Middle East, the president said recently Israel has increased its acts of terrorism against the unarmed and peaceful Palestinians. This is not the behavior of a civilized country.

He declared that an international conference should be convened without delay for the solution of this problem in which all members of the Security Council and all concerned parties should participate. The legitimate rights of the Palestinians should be accepted as this is the only practical solution of the problem.

Referring to foreign policy, the president said we are making continuous efforts to improve relations with our neighbor, India. Besides diplomatic efforts, I myself and the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, have (?both) meetings with the Indian prime minister for the purpose.

On one side, we are endeavoring to keep the region free from atommic weapons, on the other side, India has changed the situation by obtaining nuclear submarines.

The president declared we are aware of the situation and making efforts to strengthen the national defense. He expressed the hope that we will be responded with the same spirit of goodwill and good-heartedness, and both countries open a new chapter of bilateral relations by forgetting the past bitterness. This is in the interest of both the countries and in the interest of peace.

Turning to home affairs, the president emphasized the need for speeding the enforcement of Islamic system, provision of quick and inexpensive justice to the people, and eradication of bribery from the society.

He said democracy has been functioning for the last 3 years to the satisfaction of the people. He said the local bodies system has proved successful and solved local problems of the people.

Delhi Reports Sind Chief Minister's Resignation

BK070318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the chief minister of Sind Province, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, has resigned. Last week, the president and the prime minister had asked Mr Shah to resign following adverse press comments about him. His refusal to step down created a political crisis in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League.

Spokesman Rejects Allegations of Assisting Sikhs

BK070238 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated that it strictly adheres to the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, including India. A Foreign Office spokesman has strongly rejected the allegations that the Sikh extremists across the border have been given assistance [by Pakistan].

The spokesman made this statement when his attention was drawn to the allegations leveled by the Indian minister of state for external affairs and the governor of East Punjab.

He said these allegations are incorrect, irresponsible and mischievous. He said Pakistan is against any kind of terrorism.

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Meets Gandhi in Delhi

BK071230 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1145 GMT 7 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, 7 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—Prime Minister Mr R. Premadasa met the Indian prime minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the latter's office in Parliament on Wednesday evening. This meeting lasted over half an hour. The discussions were friendly and cordial, states a press release issued by the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Premadasa conveyed the greetings and good wishes of Sri Lankan President J.R Jayewardene. He thanked the Indian prime minister for the facilities and courtesies extended to him and his delegation during his visit to India. He thanked the Indian Government for hosting the 11th session of the UN Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) in the Indian capital. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi displayed a keen interest in the million houses strategy of Sri Lanka. Mr Premadasa explained that the hallmark of the million houses strategy is minimum intervention by the state and maximum participation of the people.

He added that housing in Sri Lanka is non-political, non-ethnic and non-religious, so much so that even in the strife torn Northern and Eastern provinces, the housing programme has shown satisfactory progress like in the rest of the country.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said that India also attaches a great deal of importance to shelter and that the self-help approach has proved to be successful. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi enquired about recent developments in Sri Lanka. Mr Premadasa told the Indian prime minister that the people of Sri Lanka are rather confused in view of the tragic situation prevailing in the Eastern Province. Mr Gandhi wanted to know why the Muslims are being attacked by the terrorists.

Mr Premadasa clarified that the Muslims in Sri Lanka form a distinct ethnic entity despite the fact that they speak Tamil or Sinhalese. He emphasized that the Sri Lankan Muslims have always stood for the national unity and the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. The purpose of the attack on the Sinhalese and the Muslims is to drive them away especially from their traditional homes.

Prime Minister Premadasa informed the Indian prime minister that Sri Lanka is being accused of allowing over 100,000 Indian troops to remain in the island. The Indian prime minister explained that the purpose is to help the Government of Sri Lanka to resolve the present conflict.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said that if anyone else other than India were to deal with the Tamil terrorists it would be interpreted differently, creating difficulties for both Sri Lanka and India.

He also said that the number of IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] troops in Sri Lanka is around 75,000. It was his desire to withdraw the Indian troops as early as possible.

Secretary to the prime minister, K.H.K Wijayadasa, Sri Lanka high commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratna, were also present.

PLO Envoy Meets President, Speaks to Newsmen

BK061215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The just role played by Sri Lanka on behalf of the people of Palestine and their struggle for self-determination further endorses world public opinion on this issue.

The PLO is fully satisfied with Sri Lanka's stand. This was stated by Dr Khayr al-Din 'Abd al-Rahman, special envoy of the PLO at a news conference in Colombo yesterday. Dr Rahman said that the voice of Sri Lanka had been heard at international platforms supporting the Palestinian cause which in turn gave added encouragement to the international solidarity expressed worldwide for the cause.

He said in the on-going uprising in occupied Palestine only stones were used by the Palestinians against the might of the Israelis massive arsenal and sophisticated weaponry. But no power could bend or break the will of the people. Dr Rahman pointed out that the Palestinians will overcome all odds and succeed in their struggle to establish an independent homeland.

Meanwhile, Dr Khayr al-Din 'Abd al-Rahman left last night after having been received by President Jayewardene. During his stay Dr Rahman also met Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed.

The purpose of his visit, Dr Rahman told the president was to convey appreciation of the PLO for the continuous and genuine support Sri Lanka has given to the cause of the Palestinian people. Dr Rahman had detailed talks with Foreign Minister Hameed and in the discussions he briefed Mr Hameed of the present developments in the occupied areas.

Dr Rahman is on a 4-nation tour. He left last night for New Delhi.

'All' Tamil Refugees To Return Within 6 Months

BK041028 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0937 GMT 4 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo Apr 4 (LANKA PUWATH)—A senior Tamil Nadu official has said that it is hoped to send back all Sri Lankans in south India within the next 6 months. Already 20,526 have returned and have been resettled in their homes.

Refugees who were staying in Jaffna earlier will be brought back in batches commencing tomorrow, senior assistant secretary for the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Tilak Chandrasekara, told LANKA PUWATH. He said this is being carried out in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. A large number of refugees belonging to Mannar have now returned, the senior assistant secretary said.

He further said the first batch consisting of 500 refugees who belong to the Jaffna sector will arrive at the Kankesanthurai Port tomorrow.

Seven thousand citizens of Mannar who took refuge in Tamil Nadu have returned to Sri Lanka and they will be resettled in Mannar as soon as normalcy returns, Mr Chandrasekera said.

Meanwhile, a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA dispatch received by LANKA PUWATH states that the Tamil Nadu state administration hopes to send back all the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees presently in the southern Indian state in 6 months, the state's director of refugee rehabilitation, Mr Palanichamay, said yesterday.

He told reporters in Madurai that 3,000 refugees in camps in Madurai, Thanjavur, Mandapam and Chengalpattu towns would be sent back next Saturday. These and the refugees sent back so far all hailed from Sri Lanka's Mannar District, he said, adding the government is also arranging to send back all those belonging to Jaffna under full protection. The Indian Peacekeeping Force would take charge of them on the island, he added.

After the refugees from camps had returned, the 10,500 refugees living outside camps would be sent back, he said.

Denying that any of the refugees sent to Sri Lanka had returned to India, Palanichamy said it was true that refugees from Colombo, Kandy and Navaroli were afraid to return to their homes and the federal government had been apprised of this.

He said the United Nations had given 400 million rupees to rehabilitate the refugees who had returned to their homes and each family would get 25,000 rupees.

8 EPRLF Cadres Die in LTTE Attack

BK050958 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0928 GMT 5 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 05 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—Fighting between rival terrorist groups heightened yesterday when eight EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] cadres were killed by LTTE gunmen in Vavuniya, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They said during the last few days the rival terrorist groups had been constantly attacking each other.

Rival Group Says LTTE Funded From India

BK060606 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Colombo, April 6 (AFP)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka's main Tamil separatist group, has received up to 30 million dollars from India since 1983, a guerrilla group said Wednesday.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said the Tigers received 385,000 dollars from the Indian Government after the July Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact. The rest was given by Indian Tamil politicians between 1983 and July 1987, a spokesman for the left-wing EPRLF said.

Indian officials here said they knew "some funds" were paid by New Delhi to the LTTE after the accord, but denied knowledge of other payments. "I really don't know how much money was paid," an Indian High Commission official said.

A senior Sri Lankan minister who asked not to be named said Colombo had always been concerned about the secret funding of separatist groups.

"We know about only one installment that the LTTE got from the Indian Government," the EPRLF spokesman said, adding that the rest came from Tamil Nadu, India's southern-most state which is home to nearly 55 million Tamils. The state is a haven for Tamil rebels campaigning for a homeland in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has previously accused India of giving financial and military backing to Tamil rebels but New Delhi has denied the charge. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, who died in December after ruling the state for 10 years, was widely regarded as a supporter of the militants, particularly the LTTE.

The EPRLF statement followed reports that quoted Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit as saying that India had paid money to the LTTE after the July accord, which sought to end the Tamil separatist campaign. The reports said the LTTE had sought financial aid from India to maintain its cadres.

India reportedly asked the LTTE to stop collecting "taxes" in northern Jaffna Peninsula which the rebels controlled for two years until Indian troops seized it in October.

Indian Army officers in Jaffna told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE last week that the LTTE collected around 300,000 dollars a month in such taxes until the peace accord was signed. The LTTE levied the taxes on virtually everything, including newspapers, soft drinks, liquor, fuel, transport and other business, they said. The ERPLF said some Indian Tamil politicians gave money to the LTTE even after October when the Indian Army went on an offensive to disarm the group.

The Tamil Nadu Government publicly gave some 3.2 million dollars to the LTTE and its ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), last year, provoking protests from Colombo.

But the LTTE refused to accept a donation of 50,000 rupees (3,850 dollars) in 1985 from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Tamil Nadu's main opposition party. Tamil sources say the rejection brought the LTTE closer to Mr. Ramachandran.

All Sri Lankan Tamil groups still have offices in Tamil Nadu. And except for the LTTE, all have accepted the July pact.

Indian Troops Apprehend 6 LTTE Terrorists
BK061238 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1224 GMT 6 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—In operations conducted by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in the Jaffna sector yesterday, six LTTE terrorists were apprehended, official sources told LANKA PUWATH today. They said of those apprehended, 3 have been confirmed as hardcore LTTE terrorists.

At Kantakodi, the Indian troops recovered 125 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and at Chavakachcheri, the IPKF recovered one improvised explosive device.

Muslim Fisherman Beaten to Death by Terrorists
BK071026 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0938 GMT 7 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—One Muslim fisherman succumbed to his injuries caused by merciless beatings he received at the hands of terrorists in Trincomalee yesterday.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that two fishermen were on their way to Toppur when at the 58th mile post on the Muttur-Batticaloa road they were accosted by two terrorists who accused them of being members of the Jihad group and unmercifully assaulted them, despite the fishermen pleading that they were not linked to the Jihad group.

Jamdeen Bawa Mahroof died of injuries in the Trincomalee Hospital.

The condition of the other, Naina Mahmood, is reported to be satisfactory.

Reports from Nainativu state that ten terrorists armed with submachine guns raided the house of Vadivel and at gunpoint robbed belonging to him [sentence as heard].

Meanwhile, in search operations conducted by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) four terrorists belonging to the PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] gang of terrorists were apprehended at Karaitivu, (?83) kilometers from Colombo, in which sector terrorists last Thursday unleashed a wave of brutality which culminated in the death of 17 civilians.

Another report from Batticaloa states the Indian troops recovered in Nedanchenai one 100-mm mortar.